

Kaufman assails Likud

LONDON (R) — The British opposition Labour Party's foreign affairs spokesman attacked Israel's ruling Likud Party Friday as expansionist and bigoted. Shadow Foreign Secretary Gerald Kaufman, who is Jewish, also advised the Israeli Labour Party not to enter any new coalition with Likud. "The quarrelsome and divided Israeli electorate has turned away from the prospect of peace and instead has created the prospect of a narrow, bigoted Israeli government that would be expansionist abroad and, at home, would corrupt the dream of a Jewish homeland into a fundamentalist Khomunist ghetto," Kaufman said. He was speaking in parliament during debate on the government's political agenda for the coming year set out in a speech by Queen Elizabeth Tuesday. Kaufman said the Israeli electorate's "folly and short-sightedness" had extinguished hopes for peace negotiations with the Palestinians. "Israel is in danger of throwing away the greatest chance it has ever had for a negotiated peace," he said. "And I hope the Israeli Labour Party would ponder carefully before considering any coalition with the Likud."

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Eldest son Ibn Saud dies

RIYADH (R) — The eldest surviving son of the founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia died Friday. A royal announcement, read on Riyadh Radio, said 80-year-old Prince Muhammad bin Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud would be buried in the Saudi capital Saturday.

Spain okays text of pact with U.S.

MADRID (AP) — The government Friday approved a new eight-year defence agreement with the United States that stipulates the removal from Spain of 72 U.S. F-16 fighter bombers by 1992, a spokesman said. The government of Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez sees the new eight-year accord as a fresh start between two allies and says it represents a departure from previous texts that renewed the original agreement. Spokesman Guillermo Una told the AP the cabinet's approval of the text of the accord means it will go soon for ratification before parliament, where the Socialist Party has a comfortable majority.

U.S. envoy calls on Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley met Friday with Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, bolstering impressions here she will be the next prime minister. Oakley spent more than an hour at the Islamabad house where Bhutto is staying. He waved to reporters as he left but did not stop his embassy car to comment on the meeting. Political analysts said Bhutto's nomination as prime minister looked more certain after the visit.

Four Libyans held in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Police arrested four Libyans who entered Egypt illegally carrying pistols, three kg of gold and \$2,000, security sources said Friday. The men were driving through Egypt's western desert towards the New Valley governorate, about 600 kilometres southwest of Cairo, when border police intercepted them. Four pistols, the dollars and gold were found in the men's four-wheel-drive vehicle, they added. Military prosecutors were questioning the Libyans.

Morocco denies it restoring Iran ties

RABAT (R) — Morocco categorically denied Friday a French radio report saying it had decided to resume diplomatic ties with Iran, broken off in 1979. "The information given by Radio France Internationale is without any basis whatsoever," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters. Radio France Internationale, quoting its correspondent in Rabat, carried the report in its morning bulletin. It gave no further details. The spokesman declined to comment on reports that an Iranian delegation was visiting Morocco to discuss improving relations.

Banker wanted in Greek scandal held in U.S.

BOSTON (AP) — Greek banker George Koskotas, who fled his homeland Nov. 6 after being indicted in a \$300 million scandal that has shaken Greece's government, was scheduled to appear Friday before a U.S. magistrate. "The hearing is probably just a bail hearing. The extradition process will begin sometime later," said Thomas Stewart, a Justice Department spokesman in Washington. Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Koskotas, 34, Wednesday after he landed at an area airport aboard a Lear jet from Bermuda.

Yugoslavia amends constitution

BELGRADE (AP) — Yugoslavia's parliamentary Friday adopted amendments to the federal constitution designed to pave the way for radical economic changes and streamline the country's complex communist political system. The 34 amendments changed 135 articles, or about one-third of the current Yugoslav constitution, passed in 1974 during the rule of Josip Broz Tito. The 1974 constitution, believed to be the longest and most complicated in the world, granted wide autonomy to the six often-factions republics and two semi-autonomous provinces.

Hungary expels Romanian diplomat move

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary expelled a senior Romanian diplomat Thursday in retaliation for the expulsion of a Hungarian diplomat from Bucharest last week. The Hungarian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Pavel Platona, a political counsellor at Romania's Budapest embassy, had been declared persona non grata and given 72 hours to leave the country. Mircea Has, press attaché at Romania's Budapest embassy, had no official comment on the announcement.

Egypt holds 1,800 under emergency

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have detained more than 1,800 people without trial in the last two months, Interior Minister Zaki Badr was quoted Friday as saying. He told the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram that about half the 1,827 people held under emergency powers were detained for political reasons or were Muslim fundamentalists. Eighteen communists and 40 university students were among those held, he said.

Khmer Rouge to attend Paris talks

BANGKOK (AP) — Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan says he will take part in the next round of peace talks in Paris between warring Kampuchean factions, reports said Friday. Khieu Samphan, in a letter to Kampuchean leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said: "I am ready to join with all parties in our CGDK (Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea) in the next meeting in Paris at any time you think suitable."

Israel returns press cards to journalists

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has restored the accreditation of two Reuters correspondents whose press cards were suspended last month over an article about undercover army units in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Government press officer Director Yoram Ettinger returned the cards to chief correspondent Paul Taylor and reporter Steve Weisman this week. The journalists were accused of violating Israeli military censorship laws with the article, which said an undercover squad had been involved in the killing of wanted leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Seven held in Philippine massacre

MANILA (AP) — At least seven people were arrested Friday in the massacre of 17 people in a mountain village chapel that was sprayed with gunfire by unidentified men early this week, the military said. The Philippine constabulary command on the central Philippine island of Cebu said soldiers arrested the seven in the vicinity of Baglik, the scene of Tuesday night's slaughter. Twelve people were wounded in the attack. Cebu Governor Emilio Osmena, constabulary provincial commander Colonel Rodolfo Garcia, and other officials flew by helicopter to Baglik, 55 kilometres southeast of Manila, to investigate. The seven suspects were jailed in Asturias, the town closest to the massacre scene. Officials and survivors said dozens of villagers were praying inside a private chapel owned by a wealthy businesswoman and landowner Tuesday night when an undetermined number of men opened fire.



His Majesty King Hussein with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Revolutionary Command Council Vice-Chairman Izzat Ibrahim (right) and other senior Iraqi officials in Baghdad Friday (Petra photo)

King, Iraqi leader discuss Gulf, Lebanon, Arab action

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday paid a working visit to Baghdad and held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Arab affairs, efforts for peace between Iran and Iraq, the situation in Lebanon and the need to increase efforts to settle issues of common Arab concern. Both leaders reiterated their country's recognition of the newly-proclaimed Palestinian state and reaffirmed their support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) endeavours to regain the Palestinian people's rights, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. Ibrahim, who arrived in Amman Tuesday, returned to Baghdad along with the King. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, who accompanied the King on the one-day visit, attended the talks in Baghdad along with senior Iraqi government officials.

5 killed, 15 wounded in Israeli air raid on Sidon

SIDON (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes Friday bombed two bases used by Lebanese and Palestinian resistance fighters in South Lebanon. Police said five people were killed and 15 wounded. Four Israeli jeffrigers thundered over the bases near the Al-Man Hill on Sidon's northeastern edge at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) and fired eight rockets in two attacks five minutes apart, a police spokesman said. The rockets completely demolished a joint single-storey building camouflaged in an olive grove, he said. The base belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Nasserite Organisation (PNO), a Lebanese militia. An adjacent one-storey building used by the PNO was also damaged, according to police. They said those killed were three PNO militiamen and two PFLP fighters. Among the wounded were six PNO fighters, according to police. They said the rest were civilians, including three children. "People trapped under rubble could be heard moaning to their comrades tried to save them," a witness told Reuters. Explosions echoed across Sidon and clouds of black smoke rose over the targets, witnesses said. Ambulances and fire trucks raced to the area. Israeli drones carrying out post-raid reconnaissance flights over the bombed area met a hail of anti-aircraft fire from PNO positions. The attack was the first by Israeli jets this year on PNO positions. They normally target Palestinian bases in the area. Witnesses said Friday's raids, Israel's 25th on Lebanon this year, blasted at least six bomb craters in the ground and demolished part of a main highway. At least 87 people have been killed in Israeli air strikes on Lebanon this year. Israel's last raid, on Tuesday, hit Palestinian targets outside the refugee camps of Ain Al-Hiwah and Mich Mich near Sidon, killing six people and wounding seven.

3 Palestinians suffer gunshot wounds in West Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers Friday shot and wounded three Palestinians, including a 10-year-old who was hit by a plastic bullet, as anti-occupation protests placed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians from the village of Kufir Laqif accused settlers from the nearby settlement of Gint Shomron of uprooting up to 30 olive trees in revenge for a stone attack Thursday night that injured a Jewish settler. The attack took place in the town of Qalqilya. The Palestinians also said settlers stoned and damaged Arab cars overnight. In the Gaza Strip, troops wounded two Palestinians and the army ordered a high school in Rafah closed indefinitely for violating "public order". It was the ninth such closure since the start of the academic year. In another development, the army said it had sentenced 21 paratroopers to up to two weeks in jail after a rampage in which soldiers smashed house windows and damaged cars in Qalandiya refugee camp. The sentences brought immediate demands by right-wing politicians that the soldiers be pardoned, and even a leading left-wing leader complained the rampage was not the fault of the soldiers but of government policies. The soldiers confessed to smashing windows and doors of houses and damaging cars, Israel Radio said. They were sentenced to a week to two weeks in jail, an army spokesman said. He said three sergeants were given two week sentences with a further two weeks suspended. Their squadrons leader was sentenced Tuesday to two weeks in prison. Reports at the time said the soldiers went on a rampage after their bus was stoned as it went through the camp. Witnesses said that at least four cars and 20 houses were damaged. An Israeli officer, meanwhile, testified at the trial of four soldiers in the beating death of a Gaza Strip Palestinian that the accused were acting on orders. The Hebrew-language daily Hadashot reported. "The order to beat Arab protesters came straight from the commander of the Gaza Strip, Brig-Gen. Zvi Poleg, and the soldiers were carrying out the spirit of the order," the paper quoted Lt. Rafil Tawil as saying.

Moscow considering formal delay in Afghan withdrawal

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow is considering formally postponing its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in the face of mounting attacks by guerrillas on Soviet army units, official Soviet sources said Friday. The sources, well-placed to know the trend of top-level thinking, said a final decision could be made after President Mikhail Gorbachev meets U.S. President Ronald Reagan and President-elect George Bush in New York Dec. 7. "There is a limit to what we will put up with," said one source. "If something is not done by the Americans and the Pakistanis to rein in the guerrillas, we will have no other choice but to extend our stay." And he added: "We hope to hear something positive from the American leadership next month." The 50,000 remaining Soviet troops were due to be out of Afghanistan by Feb. 15 under a United Nations-mediated agreement signed in April in Geneva, but the second stage of the withdrawal has already been postponed. "We have strictly observed the Geneva accords," one Soviet official said. "But it now seems clear that from the start the Americans and the Pakistanis had little intention of keeping their side of the bargain." Over the past few months, Moscow has regularly accused Pakistan of aiding the guerrillas fighting for the overthrow of the Soviet-backed Kabul administration of President Najibullah by providing base camps, supplies and even fire cover. Charges against the United States, the main source of military supplies for the guerrillas, have been more muted, apparently because the Soviet Union hoped Washington would move towards more cooperation in easing the withdrawal. Soviet spokesmen have left no doubt that Moscow was deeply angered by a guerrilla rocket attack on Kabul airport Nov. 13 in which 10 Soviet soldiers preparing to fly home were killed and many others injured. Film of the coffins of the soldiers being loaded onto planes shown on Moscow Television had a clear effect on Soviet public opinion.

Mitterrand begins Soviet visit

MOSCOW (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand arrived Friday for talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that were expected to underscore recently improved relations between Paris and Moscow. Mitterrand was welcomed at Moscow's Vnukovo airport in mid-afternoon by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, First Deputy Vice-President Anatoly Lukyanov and other officials. TASS news agency reported. He was then driven to the Kremlin for talks with Gorbachev which were expected to concentrate on disarmament and trade. About a dozen bankers and industrialists accompanied Mitterrand, and among deals in the offing was a \$2-billion French credit to the Soviet Union (see page 6). The Communist Party daily Pravda said the Soviet Union hoped the two-day visit would boost "mutually profitable" bilateral cooperation and produce agreement on international issues. "In the Soviet Union, they like to hope that new possibilities are opening up for bringing closer together the positions of our countries on world problems, especially on European policy questions," it said. In an interview with Pravda, Mitterrand stressed the importance of improving bilateral economic links with Moscow.

Al Hussein: Jordan, PLO maintaining close coordination

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were maintaining close coordination and that Jordan would do all it can to help the Palestinian people regain their rights on their national soil.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation's Arabic service Thursday, the King expressed delight and deep satisfaction with the proclamation of the Palestinian state and said it was a move to serve the Palestinian cause. Jordan, the King said, never had any ambition to exercise its hegemony or domination on others but has always sought to assist the Palestinians to regain their national rights. Jordan, the King said, has a role to play along with the PLO at the called-for international Middle East peace conference as a state in confrontation with Israel. The King described the Algiers proclamation of the independent Palestinian state as a significant achievement and added that relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people are unique and solid, and would gain even more strength in the coming stage. He expressed hope that the Palestinian state would eventually be established on Palestine soil after which a confederation with Jordan can be achieved. In reply to a question, the King said the PLO stand was flexible and positive and responsive to the wish of the international community, unlike the intransigent stance of Israel. By accepting U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 the PLO has done all it can to reach peace, King Hussein said. The ball is now in the other court and the world should recognise and appreciate the PLO's positive and responsible move, the King said. King Hussein said he believed the Middle East problem would win the attention of the superpowers in the coming year, now that Washington and Moscow are convinced of the futility of the arms race. He also said he believes that the Bush administration would concentrate on this issue, and together with the Soviet Union, would help convene an international peace conference. His Majesty said Syria's Middle East stance was no different from that of Jordan, particularly with regard to the peace conference, and that Damascus would assume full partnership in the negotiations. Asked about Jordan's economic situation, the King said the country was facing a temporary crisis which it will overcome. Jordan, he added, has faced numerous challenges and pressures but it will by no means abandon one inch of Arab land nor can it give up the national rights of the Palestinian people, he said.

Jordan receives \$59.5m Saudi aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia Thursday paid a \$59.5-million contribution to Jordan under the 1978 Baghdad summit financial pledge to the kingdom, the Jordan News Agency, Petra reported. Petra quoted Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, as saying the Saudi payment, its fifth of the year, was transferred to the Central Bank of Jordan Thursday. Petra quoted Odeh as saying the aid payment "reflects the Saudi government's keenness to fulfill its commitment to Jordan." Only Saudi Arabia has honoured its pledges to Jordan under the agreement reached at the Arab league summit in Baghdad in 1978.

ICRC hopes to continue Iran-Iraq prisoner exchange

GENEVA (AP) — The all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Friday was in contact with both Iran and Iraq to resolve a controversy that marred the start of the first major exchange of prisoners of war (PoWs) since fighting ended Aug. 20 in the conflict. Both sides had sent back Thursday less than half the daily number envisaged under an accord they signed with the ICRC early this month during the latest round of their U.N.-mediated Gulf talks. The ICRC spoke of a "set-back" but a spokesman, Juerg Bischof, told the AP that the humanitarian organisation remained hopeful that it would not jeopardise the objective of the accord which provides for the return of all sick and wounded prisoners by the end of the year. He said Red Cross delegates in Baghdad and Tehran in touch with the responsible officials in the capitals and other contacts were made through diplomatic channels in an effort to smooth out "differences of interpretation" that arose. Bischof said plans to continue the exchange Saturday were unchanged. "We hope that this time the numbers of returnees will be as planned." Under the terms of the accord, 115 Iraqis and 41 Iranians were to be repatriated on flights scheduled daily except Friday, during the next two weeks. On Thursday, only 52 Iraqis and 19 Iranians were flown home aboard a ICRC-chartered jetliner. Iran said 36 of those picked for the first flight had sought or were already granted political asylum, and that another 27 had completely recovered so that they would no longer meet the criteria for repatriation. Iraq accused Iran of renegeing on the accord.

PLO formally seeks U.S. visa for Arafat

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday applied to the U.S. consulate in Tunis for a visa that would allow Yasser Arafat to enter the United States to address the United Nations General Assembly. Zouhdi Labib Terzi, a PLO observer at the U.N., presented the visa application to Consul John Noyes at 10 a.m. (0900 GMT), according to Jamal Sourani, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee who accompanied Terzi. Richard Undeland, public affairs officer at the U.S. embassy in Tunis, confirmed the application has been made. "We referred the request to Washington, which is standard procedure for a visa of this sort," Undeland said. The United States has not said whether it will grant the visa to Arafat, leading to confusion over whether the PLO chief would address the U.N. He hopes to be present for the General Assembly debate on the Palestinian question Dec. 1-2. Arafat's aides have been referring to the upcoming address as a matter of fact. Earlier this week, a PLO spokesman said Arafat would use the speech to ask the General Assembly to grant the new Palestinian state U.N. membership. The PLO was granted U.N. observer status in 1974, following Arafat's last address before the assembly. On Thursday, Arafat told the Qatari News Agency that the coming stage "will be one of a comprehensive and effective Arab campaign on the regional and international level for the victory of the Palestinian case and the legitimate and firm rights of the Palestinian people." Arafat holds an Algerian diplomatic passport issued in November 1988 at Algiers, where the Palestine National Council met earlier this month to declare an independent Palestinian state. Israel urged the United States again Friday to refuse Arafat entry to New York to address the U.N.

Hungary debates reforms after electing new premier

BUDAPEST (Agencies) — Parliament Friday debated political and economic reforms backed by new Premier Miklos Nemeth, who supports the introduction of market forces and competition to stimulate the stagnating economy. Nemeth, who has 27 votes against him, and 36 abstentions, appealed to parliament and the country at large to support the government's ambitious programme. "It can be achieved with consensus," Nemeth said. "All those who abstained or voted 'no' only spur me in my work, the burden of which I feel," he added. His recognition of the negative votes carried on live television was indicative of Hungary's increasing acceptance of pluralistic views. The legislature, traditionally a rubber-stamp institution for Communist Party decisions, has become increasingly lively during the past year. Thursday's opening session began with a debate on the agenda and a discussion of the policy of voting by show of hands. Nemeth's opening session began with a debate on the agenda and a discussion of the policy of voting by show of hands.

Algeria, Egypt resume ties

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt and Algeria restored full diplomatic relations Thursday after a break of nine years, a government statement said.

Algeria and most other Arab states broke relations with Cairo when Egypt signed a treaty with Israel in 1979.

The statement, issued simultaneously by the governments in Algiers and Cairo, said the resumption took effect Thursday and that ambassadors would be nominated "in the shortest possible time."

The statement was distributed in Cairo by the Middle East News Agency.

An Arab summit conference in Amman last November gave the green light for league members to resume ties with Egypt individually.

Algeria's decision brought to 12 the number of Arab states that restored relations with Egypt since the Amman summit. The others were Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Bahrain, North Yemen, South Yemen, Qatar, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania.

A top-ranking Syrian official Thursday praised Egypt's recognition of an independent Palestinian state, raising speculation Syria might be moving to restore relations with Egypt.

The official, who declined to be named, said Syria "is satisfied" with Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state.

"Syria also considers that the

declarations by Egyptian officials stressing Egypt's commitment to the Joint Arab Defence Pact is a positive development with regard to Arab causes in spite of Israel's attempts to dictate its will on Egypt according to the Camp David accords," he said.

Earlier this month Osama Al Baz, advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and third-ranking official in the Foreign Ministry, reiterated Egypt's commitment to the Joint Arab Defence Pact despite its treaty with Israel.

The Joint Arab Defence Pact was signed in 1950 and was later adopted unanimously by an Arab League summit.

The Syrian official spoke in response to a reporter's question about Egyptian recognition of the Palestinian state.

Libya Friday ruled out restoring diplomatic relations with Egypt as long as it has ties with Israel.

"Libya cannot resume its relations with Egypt as long as the Israeli flag flies in Cairo," a Foreign Ministry statement quoted by the Libyan news agency JANA said.

"Libya cannot abandon its stand against Israel but at the same time hopes Egypt returns to the Arab camp," JANA added.

Amal-Hizbollah battles flare in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Fighting flared between rival groups in west Beirut Friday while an uneasy calm descended on the southern suburbs, scene of major clashes Thursday, police said.

They said six people were killed and 20 wounded in light hours of close-quarters fighting between the Amal militia and pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) in the southern suburbs before Syrian troops fanned out after arranging a truce.

But early Friday the two factions briefly exchanged machinegun fire and rocket-propelled grenades in Wadi Abu Gemayl and Musaytibeh areas of west Beirut.

Panic-stricken residents dived for cover when the shooting started between militants vying for control of Lebanon's one million Shi'ites.

The thud of explosions and crackle of machinegun fire echoed across the capital.

In south Beirut, police said seven people were killed and 20 wounded before a ceasefire took effect at dawn.

A police spokesman said most casualties were residents caught in cross-fire.

Both sides accused each other of provoking the clash, the fiercest since Syrian troops were deployed in south Beirut last May to end more than two weeks of Amal-Hizbollah fighting.

The spokesman said straggle shells hit several apartments in the densely-populated slum area, driving panic-stricken residents to spend the night in basements and bomb shelters.

The exchanges died down at 3:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) after a ceasefire called by a Syrian army contingent in charge of security in west and south Beirut, the spokesman said.

Witnesses said militiamen brandishing automatic rifles were still at their positions in four residential areas.

"The situation is very bad

and both groups are still on full alert. Fighting might break again at any minute," one resident told Reuters by telephone.

Security sources said Amal attacked the Hizbollah stronghold of Hay Mawad and gained control of three positions during Thursday's clashes.

Amal and Hizbollah are longtime rivals for dominance of Lebanese Shi'ites, the largest single sect in Lebanon.

The fundamentalist Hizbollah blamed Amal for a failed car-bomb assassination attempt against four senior Hizbollah leaders Monday in east Lebanon.

SPLA to keep fighting despite peace plan

NAIROBI (R) — The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has ordered its guerrillas to continue fighting government troops despite last week's agreement on a formula for ending the Sudanese civil war.

"Don't confuse peace plan agreement with ceasefire... until ceasefire is officially declared by the SPLA and the government of the day in Khartoum, gunfire must continue," Radio SPLA said in a broadcast monitored in Nairobi.

The broadcast said the commanders of 20 battalions, which it specifically identified, should make sure their guerrillas keep fighting.

Last week, the SPLA and lead-

ers of the Democratic Unionist Party, (DUP), the second largest in Sudan's governing coalition, agreed a formula for peace which would set a ceasefire, freeze the government's plans to impose Islamic law and convene a constitutional conference on the country's future.

The agreement is still subject to approval by the government and one of the coalition partners, the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, has already objected.

Newspapers reported Thursday that Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party has approved the peace agreement.

The dailies Al-Ayam and Al Siyassa, reported that Ali Hassan

Tajeddin, Umma's secretary general, said the vote among party leaders Wednesday night was unanimous.

Sudan's constituent assembly, or parliament, still must approve the accord before it could be implemented.

The tentative agreement was signed last week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by SPLA leader John Garang and DUP leader Mohammad Osman Al Mirghani.

According to Al Siyassa, Tajeddin said Umma leaders had some reservations about details of the agreement, which it would communicate to the Democratic Unionists. The newspaper report did not elaborate.

The reaction is the first from the Umma party to the agreement.

However Mahdi earlier expressed satisfaction with it and with rebel statements denying responsibility for a missile attack on a plane carrying Defence Minister Abdul Maged Khalil.

The attack, which occurred a day after the pact was signed and was blamed by the government on the rebels, damaged an engine of the Hercules C-130 and its control system but caused no casualties.

A rebel broadcast denied responsibility, and Mahdi described the denial statement as "positive."

Genscher to negotiate hostage release during visit to Tehran

BONN (R) — Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher flies to Tehran Sunday and will try to negotiate the release of 14 Westerners held hostage by pro-Iranian extremists in Beirut, according to diplomatic sources.

Iranian media also suggested that an effort to free the nine Americans and five Europeans held by Lebanese groups was a principle motivation for Genscher's two-day visit. The English-language daily Tehran Times said Genscher might make a special effort in the case of kidnapped Anglican church envoy Terry Waite.

Some foreign businessmen and diplomats in Bonn speculate that the Iranian government may be willing to trade its influence with the Lebanese captors for favourable European trade agreements to res-

cue Tehran's war-ravaged economy.

The West German Foreign Ministry has announced only that Genscher will meet with senior Iranian government officials and industry leaders during the visit expected to focus on the Gulf war and prospects for improving trade relations.

But two official sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Genscher had offered to act as an intermediary in gaining the release of foreign hostages.

"The minister has offered his services to secure the release of all hostages," one source told reporters. "And the Iranian government has assured us that this corresponds with their aims."

Iranian government officials have said previously that they

have no control over the activities of the groups in Beirut. But the German officials say Genscher will make another attempt to enlist Tehran's aid in negotiating with the pro-Iranian captors.

There are currently no Germans known to be held captive in Beirut.

West German officials, including Genscher, say they won the release of former hostages Alfred Schmidt and Rudolf Cordes through long negotiations and the help of Iranian and Syrian officials.

They have consistently denied media allegations that the Bonn government paid for the hostage releases.

The Hamburg-based Bild newspaper, for example, in September said as much as 40 million marks (\$22.2 million) was paid for Cordes' freedom.



Hans-Dietrich Genscher

Dumas to visit Iran
In another development, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will visit Iran shortly, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Thursday. It said the visit was discussed when a French parliamentary delegation met Deputy Iranian Prime Minister Ali Reza Moayeri in Tehran but did not say when it would take place.

Guard's father urges Iraqi leader to drop killing probe

BAGHDAD (R) — The father of the man killed by President Saddam Hussein's son has appealed to the Iraqi leader to drop an investigation into the incident.

"What has happened was... decided by God, therefore we appeal to Your Excellency to stop the investigation," Iraqi newspapers quoted the victim's father Hanna Jajjo as saying in a letter published on behalf of his family Thursday.

Presidential servant Kamel Hanna Jajjo died after Hussein's son Uday, 24, struck him with a stick.

A prominent lawyer told Reuters Thursday that the family's call to President Hussein would lead to Uday receiving a light sentence.

The Iraqi leader ordered Justice Minister Akram Abdul Qadir to carry out a "proper investigation and trial." Uday has been in jail since Oct. 20.

"Let God be with those whom you choose to say the fair verdict according to the law, in a way that expresses justice and satisfies God and the community," the president said in a Baghdad Radio broadcast Monday.

The president said that according to relatives and friends of the victim, his son aimed the blow at the servant's shoulders. But the victim moved and the stick hit his head.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Iranian minister stabbed

NICOSIA (R) — A former liberal Iranian minister was unconscious in hospital Thursday after being stabbed by an assailant, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said Kazem Sami, health minister in 1979, was in serious condition after undergoing six hours of emergency operations for wounds to the head, chest and arm. IRNA quoted sources at the clinic where Sami, a brain specialist, worked as saying the attacker had posed as a patient and escaped after the assault Wednesday. It did not say if the attack was politically motivated. Sami served under Mehdi Bazargan, Iran's first post-revolution prime minister whose cabinet is still criticised in the Iranian media for its moderate policies.

Israelis fire at TV crew in Lebanon

TYRE (AP) — A three-man West German television crew was fired at from Israeli positions while filming United Nations peacekeeping troops in South Lebanon, U.N. sources said Thursday. The command of the U.N. Truce Monitoring Force in Lebanon (UNTMF) complained to the Israeli army about the shooting Wednesday. Israeli officers in their self-proclaimed "security zone" contended the Germans were fired upon because they were taking pictures of an Israeli military position, the sources said. Several shots were fired at the U.N.-escorted ARD television crew near the village of Qaqayeh Al Jisr, three kilometres north of the "security zone," the sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity. The crew was filming the U.N. peacekeepers for winning the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize. There were no casualties, the sources said. UNTMF sources rejected the Israeli claim. "There's no need to film their positions because they didn't win the Nobel Prize," said one Finnish U.N. officer.

Little girl testifies in UAE case

ABU DHABI (AP) — Five-year-old Nadine Naseer testified before a judge Thursday in the case of the two Irishmen charged with kidnapping her from her Jordanian father on behalf of her Irish mother. The judge took the girl into his chamber for the questioning and refused to permit even photographers to record the hearing, police sources said. They said that no details of what the girl said have been released. Gerald Flynn, 25, and Dennis Dennehy, 28, of Dublin were charged with kidnapping Nadine from her father, Dr. Samir Naseer, and his second wife.

Israel introduces high-speed gunboat

HAIFA (AP) — A new, high-speed patrol boat capable of carrying 130-mm rockets and torpedoes was introduced into the Israeli navy Thursday. The Israeli-made boat, called a "Super Dvora," was turned over to the navy at a ceremony in a Haifa naval base. The new 21.6 metre boat, with a maximum speed of 40 knots, is to replace the navy's current Dabur class patrol boat, navy officials said. The 48-ton craft has a range of 1,120 kilometres and is designed to stay at sea for three days at a time.

Aer Lingus denies Iran shipment charges

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish national airline Aer Lingus Thursday denied a report it illegally shipped millions of dollars worth of U.S. aircraft parts to Iran. The American CBS News, citing law enforcement sources, said Aer Lingus was under investigation by a federal grand jury. It said the parts were for C-130 transport planes purchased in the 1970s when Washington-Tehran relations were good. Aer Lingus senior executive Oisín O'Siochru said: "We have not supplied C-130 parts to anybody and do not own any of that type of aircraft ourselves." It has been illegal to sell any American-made aircraft parts to Iran since 1979 when U.S. hostages were seized at the Tehran embassy.

Afghan rebels cool to new U.N. peace move

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan guerrillas gave a tepid welcome Thursday to news that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has taken charge of Afghanistan peace efforts from his special envoy Diego Cordovez.

One guerrilla leader welcomed the move, another said it was unimportant. A third member of the fractious Pakistan-based alliance of seven guerrilla groups said as long as the United Nations was involved in peace efforts "we don't mind."

"I did not refuse the role of Mr. Cordovez... but we appreciate it. We welcome this," Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF), told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"It is important that the United Nations remains concerned with our cause," he said.

Mojaddidi, alliance spokesman in the absence abroad of leader Burhanuddin Rabbani, said he was speaking only for the ANLF. "There have been some differences on this issue," he added.

Cordovez has been criticised by some guerrillas for what they see as his support for a role for exiled King Zahir Shah in reconciling rebels and the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Referring to the disgruntled guerrillas, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday some people "had made it clear they would not speak to Mr. Cordovez."

The alliance's four "Islamist" groups oppose any significant role for the monarch, ousted in a 1973 coup. Three parties say he should be allowed to have a say in peace talks.

Mohammad Younis Khalis, leader of the Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) group, said Perez de Cuellar's move was "propaganda" to show he "is good for the Mujahedeen (guerrillas)."

"This is not important for us, because our main problem with Cordovez was the Geneva accords," a Hezb-i-Islami spokesman quoted him as saying.

Cordovez mediated the accords in Geneva in April paving the way for a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
16:25 Children's programme
16:45 Educational programme
16:50 Circus
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:15 Arabic series
19:10 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:00 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
22:30 Arabic play
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic play (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 L'affaire Saint Roman
19:00 News in French
19:15 Un DB de Plus
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Guinness Records
21:00 The Twilight Zone
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Smoky and Bandit"

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 Hillsville: The Story of Motown

12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumental Old favourites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Good Old Days
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsweek/Music
20:00 The Young Sound
20:30 Discovering Music
21:00 The Musical in Review
21:30 Country Music
22:00 Classical Concerts
24:00 Close Down

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Crusader Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Tel. 774111-19.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by

19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazab, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

PRAYER TIMES

04:48 Fajr
06:09 Sunrise
11:23 Dhuhr
14:13 Asr
16:36 Maghrib
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luweibdeh. Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757. Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m., winter time 5 p.m.).
Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luweibdeh. Mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622566.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abdali. Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383. chaplain's residence tel. 625343.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh. Tel. 771551.

Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmiesani. Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd): Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.
Baptist Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church): Interdenominational-cum-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822605. Rev. Veli.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) 818187, 821264

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:40 New Delhi (RJ)
09:40 Agaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:50 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
12:15 Baghdad (RJ)
15:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
16:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
17:20 Athens (RJ)
17:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:00 Tripoli (RJ)
23:30 Agaba (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
12:55 Benghazi (RJ)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:30 Baghdad (IA)
17:45 Rome (AZ)
21:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
10:40 Amsterdam, Nicosia (RJ)
11:10 Athens (RJ)
11:40 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00 Laraca (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Dubai (RJ)
21:15 Agaba (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
04:05 Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)
08:15 Beirut (MS)
10:20 Agaba (RJ)
13:55 Benghazi (LH)
15:00 Kuwait (KU)
17:30 Baghdad (IA)
18:35 Damascus (AZ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Another increase on temperature will occur and clouds appear on different altitudes. Winds will be south, causing moderate becoming fresh at times. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp.
Agaba 11/26
Deserts 11/26
Jordan Valley 9/25
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Agaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Agaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hani Haddad 777751
Dr. Fakher Ballali 625778
Dr. Tayseer Khair 606857
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
First pharmacy 661912
778336
Al Asma pharmacy 625672
Nairothi pharmacy 637630
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shmiesani pharmacy 637660

TAXIS:
Khaled taxi 623715
Abul taxi 621127
Shmiesani taxi 665294
Qasem taxi 671620
Jihad taxi 672663
Nabul taxi 821253
Al Ura taxi 666154
BRID:
Dr. Ali Al Shagiri 246140
Al Shara pharmacy 983238

ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Sharabati 985417
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 778303
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 650000 / 685111
Complaints 605800
Hotel Complaints 661176
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636146
Palestine, Shmiesani 6641774
Shmiesani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845

Al-Munshir Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511726
Army, Marj 6201345
Queen Alia Hospital 6022400
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09838323
Zarga National Hospital 09838323
Ibn Sina Hospital 09838323
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital 02275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272225
Ibn Al Naifas Hospital



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday opens an annual charity bazaar at the Watani Sporting Club in Amman (Petra photo)

Watani club marks King's birthday with bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — An annual charity bazaar by the Watani Sporting Club was opened in Amman Thursday by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The Princess inspected the various items on display which included a large variety of handicrafts, knitted items, toys and other articles prepared by the club members.

The event, organised as part of the King's birthday celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 53rd birthday, was attended by a large audience of invited guests.

Khaleifat attends Irbid celebrations

The King's birthday was celebrated Thursday by Irbid Governorate where the youth organisations organised national dance and artistic performances in the presence of Minister of Youth Awad Khaleifat, who distributed cups and medals to the youth and sports centres and the

winners in various competitions. The minister later opened a painting exhibition by Irbid artists. The week long exhibition displays 65 works of art depicting public life in Jordan.

The minister met with representatives of the youth organisations in Irbid and Ramtha areas and delivered a speech outlining the Ministry of Youth's achievements and plans for the Irbid Governorate.

Khaleifat announced that his ministry has embarked on creating mobile youth centres to carry cultural, social and sports activities to all regions of the Kingdom. The ministry, he added, will allocate special prizes for clubs that excel in such sports and youth activities.

Khaleifat later called at the Jordan Valley region and inaugurated a sports hall that had been set up in cooperation with the local councils and local private organisations.

Majali back from Interpol meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali returned to Amman Thursday evening after heading Jordan's delegation to the 57th meeting of the International Police Organisation Interpol in Bangkok, Thailand.

In a statement upon returning to Amman, Majali said the conference recommended the establishment of an international team to combat drug trafficking and more coordination among Interpol member nations in the use of more proper and efficient means to collect information about drug trafficking and crimes affiliated to drugs.

The conference called for an Interpol meeting to be held in Amman and to be attended by representatives of the Gulf countries, in order to work out measures to implement the conference's resolutions and recommendations.

The proposed meeting, he said, is bound to promote cooperation among countries in the region.

Madaba allocates JD 127,000 for wildlife

MADABA (Petra) — The five-year development plan for Madaba district has allocated JD 127,000 for establishing a wildlife reserve on an area of 212 square kilometres, 100 kilometres of which are located in Madaba district while 112 will be within Karak Governorate boundaries.

The establishment of the reserve is designed to develop tourism in the area and to preserve animal wealth.

The Madaba district governor, who is also chairman of the Madaba development area, said that JD 23,000 were spent on this vital project.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Thursday opens a two-day charity bazaar organised by the National Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

2-day bazaar to benefit handicapped children

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day charity bazaar by the National Association for the Mentally Handicapped (NAMH) was opened at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman Thursday by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath.

The bazaar, whose proceeds will benefit handicapped children in Jordan, displayed a variety of handicrafts, embroideries, knitted items, artificial flowers and foods prepared by the handicapped children in cooperation with their

mothers and women volunteers. The event was organised to raise further funds needed by the association to expand its services to a larger number of handicapped children in Jordan.

The association, which was established in 1978, now caters for the training and special education of 42 children who also receive free medication, physiotherapy sessions and special instructions to adapt to their various needs.



Princess Taghreed opens bazaar

The Jordan Liver Patients Friendship Society Thursday organised a charity bazaar at Amra Hotel which was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Taghreed.

On display were samples of handicrafts, paintings, ornaments, embroideries and foods whose proceeds will be used to purchase vaccines for liver patients (Petra photo)

Hmoud does not rule out locust swarms by next spring

Jordan is free of locusts

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan is free of desert locusts; and the coming winter season is bound to drive away any swarms of the pests that might be heading towards the Kingdom, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said in a statement on Thursday.

But, he said, that one cannot rule out the possibility of some swarms of locusts appearing in the country by the start of next spring. "Therefore the Ministry of Agriculture has been taking all necessary precautions and has been in constant touch with Saudi Arabia and organisations concerned with fighting off the pests, and the ministry is monitoring the movement of locusts in Saudi Arabia and Yemen."

The minister, who was speaking at a meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the responsibility in combating locusts is a national one, and the ministry has been coordinating its plans and measures with other departments, and has been spreading awareness among the public and the farmers about effective means of dealing with the locusts in the event they appeared in the Kingdom.

The minister urged the heads of agriculture departments in various governorates to remain on the alert and to coordinate their

activities with civil defence centres and local municipal and village councils.

"The Ministry of Agriculture continues to provide equipment and material required to help fight off the pests, and has been training personnel to carry out campaigns and organising seminars in all regions to spread awareness among the public against the possible pest invasion," Hmoud noted.

The ministry's preparations to face the locust danger were explained to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, by the Director of Agricultural Services Lutfi Hweidi.

He said central operations rooms has been established in Amman, Karak, Zarqa and Ma'an, and 21 teams, specialised in combating pests, have been created and entrusted with touring different agricultural areas, providing farmers with insecticides and equipment to confront the pests.

Coordination is continuing

with the Health Ministry, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Jordanian Armed Forces and other concerned organisations such as Greater Amman Municipality, in the course of preparations for a unified strategy to fight off locusts if they invade Jordanian territory, Hweidi noted.

The Armed Forces, Hweidi said, have supplied transport, equipment and medical supplies for the teams to deal with poisoning cases resulting from the use of pesticides.

The Armed Forces have also arranged for aircraft to spray pesticides in areas that might be invaded by locusts, Hweidi added.

The ministry's urgent precautions were motivated by earlier reports about locust invasions of North African countries, including Egypt, and parts of Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi said in April that air surveillance was under way in regions that could be attacked by the pests.

According to specialists, a swarm covering an area of one square kilometre might contain 80 to 120 tonnes of locusts which eat up to one-day.

Jordan, Syria sign minutes of meeting on energy cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Syria have concluded a three-day meeting in Damascus designed to coordinate their cooperation in energy-related fields, and the prospect of linking the national grids of both countries.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib who returned to Amman Thursday evening conducted the talks at the head of a Jordanian team with a Syrian team led by Minister of Electricity Kamel Al Baba.

The two teams signed minutes of their meetings, which stated that both sides agreed in principle

to link their countries' national grids and to take other steps to link these grids with other countries in Middle East region including Turkey, and to exchange expertise and information related to electricity, power-generation, financing of generation stations and financing power-generation schemes.

The two sides agreed to step up training activities at their national centres, improve the work of power networks and exchange data.

The two countries have also agreed to conduct primary studies

on the possible use of alternative sources of energy and decided to link the transformer stations of Sheikh Maskin in Syria with that in Irbid in Jordan, and announced their intention to set up a 400-kilovolt transformer station to link Amman with Damascus and to serve later as part of a network that could be linked to other Arab energy systems.

They ordered the formation of a technical committee that would conduct initial feasibility studies on unifying the two grids and to report on its findings in three months from now.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday visited the Al Rawabdeh family in Al Sarih and conveyed condolences on the death of Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh's father. He was accompanied by Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Marwan Qasim and Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. (Petra)

CULTURAL SEASON BEGINS: Within the framework of Jordan's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the 1988 cultural season, which the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage holds at the Royal Cultural Centre, will begin on Monday. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: A new batch of People's Army recruits graduated Thursday in Ramtha district. The commander of Irbid military command delivered a speech praising the recruits' aptitude and abilities in dealing with weapons. (Petra)

KHAYYAT MEETS IRAQI COUNTERPART: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Thursday discussed with Iraqi Awqaf Minister Abdullah Fadil Abbas means to bolster cooperation in all fields particularly those related to Islamic affairs. (Petra)

SEEDLINGS FROM WEST BANK: Agriculture Minister Marwan Al Hmoud has endorsed a decision allowing the entry of olive, fig, and pomegranate seedlings from the West Bank effective mid-December. The decision sets the condition that these seedlings be free from diseases and that West Bank agricultural centres' employees fill in the necessary forms. (Petra)

AJLOUNI MEETS PORTUGUESE TOURISTS: Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni Thursday received a Portuguese tourist delegation currently visiting Jordan. Ajlouni welcomed the delegation and stressed the ministry's readiness to provide all facilities necessary to ensure success of their trip to Jordan. The delegation members expressed their satisfaction with the facilities offered to them and spoke highly of the touristic and archaeological sites they visited. (Petra)

ENERGY CONSERVATION: A three-day exhibition of energy conservation equipment is due to open in Madaba Saturday. The exhibition is intended to familiarise the public about energy conservation equipment and to provide information on means to reasonably consume energy. (Petra)

ADU COUNCIL TO MEET: The meetings of the Arab Dentists Union (ADU) executive council is due to begin meetings in Amman Saturday. The conferees will elect a new executive council, discuss the problems faced by dentists in the Arab World, and the situation in Sudan. (Petra)

EXHIBITION ON T.S. ELIOT: The British Council will hold a five-day photo exhibition, entitled "T.S. Eliot" during the period Nov. 27 through Dec. 1. The exhibition covers Eliot's life and writing. (J.T.)

CONFERENCE OF FARMERS UNION: The Agriculture Ministry will take part in the conference of the Arab Farmers Union due to convene in the Syrian capital of Damascus on Dec. 5. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Brass plates exhibition by Hrach Louton at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at Al Ra'ed Al Arabi School, Shmeisani.
- ★ An exhibition of iconographies, signs and public places by the German artist Otto Herbert Hajek at the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Amman Today in Photos" by Hisham Jweinat at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The annual fall exhibition of the Rami Hamida Women Rugs in South Shunah in the Jordan Valley 10:00 - 4:30.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by 55 artists from Irbid Governorate at Irbid Youth Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture entitled "Towards a better treatment of diabetes" by Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim at Abdul ... Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

Education seminar seeks to link economic needs with university courses

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A four-day seminar on access to higher education which ended at the University of Jordan Thursday has urged concerned authorities to link national economic needs with university courses and the process of admission so that sufficient numbers of skilled manpower can be made available to contribute to the development process.

The seminar issued a statement at the final session, stressing the importance of the admission and acceptance procedures at universities and institutes of higher education.

The statement recommended that students at the school level should be allowed to select specialisations at an early age and noted that this could be done by introducing new forms of training courses into the curricula of the secondary stage at the school level.

The statement also called for close coordination between universities and community colleges on the one hand and secondary schools on the other, in the course of processing applications for entry into various faculties. It recommended that an assessment be made of students' performance at the end of the first Tawjihi semester of each year to determine the students' eligibility for higher education.

The four-day seminar reviewed several working papers dealing with the question of admission into universities, problems encountered by foreign students upon enrolling at colleges and policies of higher education in the Arab World.

The seminar was organised by the Association of Arab Universities and the University of Jordan in cooperation with the International Association of Universities.

Seminar urges expanding public transport network

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A four-day seminar to discuss Greater Amman Municipality's endeavours to develop the capital and its surrounding areas from now until the year 2005, ended Thursday, with the participants urging the concerned authorities to expand public transport networks to serve larger sectors of the population.

A statement at the conclusion of the meetings in Amman said that such measures coupled with a reduction in the number of private cars within the capital's regions, are bound to help improve services to low-income citizens and ease traffic congestion.

The statement also urged Greater Amman Municipality to link its expansion plans with provincial plans in the Kingdom and to take steps to make a fairer and more balanced distributions of public buildings in all regions.

"Any municipality plans should take into account population, social and economic growth in the capital. Therefore amend-

ments to existing legislations and laws should be introduced to serve this purpose," the statement noted.

It urged public and private organisations to cooperate in financing municipality projects and voiced appreciation to government assistance to Greater Amman Municipality's schemes.

The seminar which was organised in cooperation with the Arab Cities Organisation discussed 30 working papers dealing with the development and organisation of Amman.

Participants included specialists in city organisation, university professors and government officials.

As the seminar was in progress the municipality organised an exhibition displaying charts, maps and organisational plans worked out by the Housing Corporation, the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Greater Amman Municipality.

ELECTRICITY PROJECT: As part of Tafleeh Governorate celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the JD 180,000 Hassa-Tafleeh electricity relay project has been completed and is now providing electricity to the various parts of Tafleeh Governorate. (Petra)

اربع مع جيليتة

Win with Gillette

With every Contour Plus, Contour, Gil Plus or Gil that you buy you are entitled to receive an attractive colour poster. All you do is fill in this entry form and mail it to: Fortune Promoseven, P.O. Box 6834, Dubai, UAE, along with the packaging of the product you purchased.

And here's how you can win with GILLETTE. Just answer the following questions by ticking the appropriate box. Then tell us

in not more than 12 words, why you shave with Gillette. The three entrants who answer the questions correctly, and best describe, in the opinion of the judges, why they prefer GILLETTE, will each win a luxurious BMW 318i.

Hurry, win with GILLETTE today. The contest closes on December 20, 1988.

ENTRY FORM (tick appropriate box)

QUESTION: 1 Saudi Arabia won the last Asian Cup in 1984. ☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

QUESTION: 2 There are 6 teams participating in the 1988 Asian Cup. ☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

QUESTION: 3 The final of the 1980 Asian Cup, held in Kuwait, was won by the host nation. ☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

I shave with Gillette (specify Gillette razor/blade used) because _____ (not more than 12 words)

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

COUNTRY: _____

SHOP WHERE PURCHASED: _____

Rules & Regulations:

- The 3 winners will be contacted by mail before January 31, 1989.
- The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Entries must be posted no later than 20th December 1988 accompanied by one proof of purchase per entry.
- No cash alternative is available.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Editorial Director:
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Not every man has his price

THE RACIST regime in South Africa is not doing the black liberation movement any favour by moving towards releasing jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela. Nor is it fooling anyone by voicing concern over Mandela's safety after release. Having incarcerated the African National Congress (ANC) leader for 24 years, Pretoria is now talking about its fears that "extremists" in South Africa might mount assassination attempts against him.

While such possibilities cannot be overlooked, it is indeed funny to hear the South African government voicing concern over his health and safety. At the same time, one also wonders how sincere the government is in its announced plans not to send Mandela back to prison. In all probability, Pretoria wants to dangle the prospect of eventual release of Mandela as long as it can hope to influence the international outcry for his freedom.

Mandela himself has firmly rejected undertaking not to assume political activities in return for his release. Perhaps it is difficult for the white supremacist leaders to appreciate how anybody can turn down an offer of freedom after 24 years in jail no matter what his nationalist feelings are. But then, Nelson Mandela is not anybody. He represents the blacks' quest for their rights in their land, and for him freedom means only one thing: an end to white supremacy and oppression in his country.

In any case, one thing is sure. Pretoria will indeed insist on a heavy price for Mandela's release. We wonder what the price will be.

Widening gap between reformers and conservatives in Eastern Europe

By Colin McIntyre
Reuters

VIENNA — A widening gap is emerging in East Europe between governments pressing ahead with political and economic reforms and those who are digging in their heels.

Earlier this month Hungary announced a new law that could lead to independent political parties. A day later, Czechoslovak police broke up an unofficial seminar due to discuss nothing more than the country's troubled 20th century history.

The crackdown in Prague, in which some 40 dissidents and historians were rounded up, came as reformist Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was talking about releasing political prisoners and rewriting the country's penal code.

Leading Czechoslovak dissident Jiri Dienstbier underlined what he saw as a growing gap between the attitude of Prague

and its more reformist neighbours.

"They wish to prevent the success of any independent activity of any kind," he told Reuters. "Seminars of this kind are now normal in Poland, Hungary and even the Soviet Union."

In Warsaw, the Communist authorities are exploring how to bring the banned independent trade union Solidarity into talks with the government on solving Poland's economic and political crisis.

In Romania meanwhile, some 60 workers who took part in demonstrations more than a year ago calling for more food, as well as democracy, were reported by the West's largest trade union group to be still in jail.

There are also big differences between how the countries are reacting to Moscow's call for more glasnost, or openness, which reformers argue is an essential requirement for creating a modern and efficient society.

In Hungary the state information bureau Pressinform is now offering to introduce visiting journalists to leading dissidents, but in East Germany, once Moscow's most faithful ally, the authorities have banned a popular Soviet magazine as too radical.

With Moscow apparently honouring its pledge not to interfere directly in the affairs of its allies, the way seems clear for each country to proceed at its own pace — or not at all.

According to East Bloc analysts, Moscow's six allies are divided into three main camps — those committed to reform (Hungary and Poland), those who pay lip service to it but do little (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia), and those who reject reforms out of hand (Romania, East Germany).

Leading the way down the reformist road is Hungary, which has gone the furthest towards democracy by raising the prospect of a legal opposition that

could challenge the 40-year monopoly of the Communist Party.

Hungary, which pioneered economic reforms two decades ago, announced last week that a law going to parliament next month would give citizens the right to establish political parties.

A few days later, Hungary's largest political party after World War II, the Independent Smallholders' Party, reappeared to challenge the Communist monopoly after being suppressed for 40 years. The Smallholders' Party said it had never been formally dissolved.

At the same time Hungary said it was planning a new liberal information bill which would enable private citizens, not just organisations, to set up newspapers. The bill "must stipulate freedom of speech and the press as an overall civil right," a leading party official said.

In Poland, the government last

month published a draft law allowing the formation of independent associations, underlining Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski's expressed determination to introduce political and social liberalisation alongside economic reforms.

The new bill would allow political discussion groups and a broad spectrum of other non-political and social clubs to be set up.

However the Polish authorities have backed away from the radical step of formally recognising Solidarity and accepting it as an equal partner in discussions on the country's future.

The Hungarian and Polish moves, tentative though they may be, take the two countries further away from conservatives like Czechoslovakia, where a recent government reshuffle was seen as strengthening rather than loosening the Communist Party's grip over all areas of activity.

"The thinking here is that, because of the long shadow of the 1968 Soviet invasion, any talk of loosening the party's control is taboo," one Western diplomat in Prague said.

Across the border in East Germany, its ageing leadership continues to resist pressure for change, saying it has already introduced successful economic reforms.

At a meeting earlier this month between East German leader Erich Honecker and his Romanian counterpart Nicolae Ceausescu, who also rejects reforms on the grounds that they are already in place, the two praised each other for remaining true to the fundamental ideas of Communism.

However political sources in the West said that of the 300,000 to 400,000 East Germans applying to emigrate, most gave as their main reason conditions back home, notably a reluctance to introduce Moscow-style reforms.

Polish students stage first open protests since 1981

By Timothy Heritage
Reuters

WARSAW — Poland's banned student union has emerged from the underground and started operating openly — but illegally — for the first time since it was suppressed under martial law in 1981.

A recent upsurge in student protests has coincided with strikes by militant young workers, indicating that Poland's youth is growing restless as the country's rulers fail to overcome a prolonged economic crisis.

Fed up with what they see as bad accommodation, lack of campus freedom and poor prospects which drive many young people abroad in search of prosperity, the students have stepped up demands for re-legalisation of the independent students' union (NZS).

But the authorities this month refused to re-legalise the NZS,

which has long been linked with the banned Solidarity trade union, and NZS leaders warn of a backlash.

"Students don't like being forced to emigrate (to make money) and they don't like the worsening economic conditions they face here," said Tomasz Ziemiński, the most outspoken of the NZS's group of leaders in Warsaw.

"If solutions are not found, some students will become apathetic but the others will become more radical," he told Reuters. "If we find we are continuing to beat our heads against a brick wall, radicalism will grow."

The NZS reemerged in Warsaw with marches which were violently broken up by police last March on the 20th anniversary of a student revolt in 1968.

It staged campus sit-ins in April and May to support pro-Solidarity strikes by workers and started

operating openly at universities outside Warsaw in October, Ziemiński said.

Other demands include restoration of university autonomy restricted under 1982 and 1985 education laws, grant increases and improved living conditions.

The students are also calling for the abolition of military studies and compulsory Russian language classes.

This autumn the NZS held rallies authorised by university authorities at several campuses, boycotted military studies and staged protests over conditions in their hostels.

"We operate like a legal organisation," Ziemiński said, adding that authorities at some universities were turning a blind eye to illegal books and leaflets produced by the students. Some can be seen on open sale at Warsaw University.

He said 10 to 20 per cent of the 330,000 or so students in Poland were members or active support-

ers of the union.

Ziemiński, a 24-year-old law student, linked the increase in student actions to signs that Poland has become less repressive since an amnesty for political prisoners in 1986. He says waves of labour unrest this year have encouraged students.

"These factors have made students more active and more courageous and Solidarity has also become a part of that trend... a new generation has appeared there too," he said.

Ziemiński was referring to young radicals who took part in this year's strike waves demanding re-legalisation of Solidarity and more pay.

"The youth are the most active group today and the most ready to strike," said Jacek Czaputowicz, leader of the Warsaw University NZS branch during the Solidarity upheaval. He now leads the dissident pacifist group freedom and peace (WTP).

"The students have one thing

in common with the young workers — they don't remember martial law," he said. "They are demanding the same things as we did. We won all that during Solidarity but it was all forgotten under martial law."

Ziemiński made it clear today's students had similar grievances to those who founded the original NZS, which was legalised early in 1981.

They complain of bad prospects in a country where manual workers are usually paid more than intellectuals and even official surveys show that most young Poles believe they must emigrate or work abroad to become prosperous.

The average monthly wage of 47,000 zloties (\$95) permits little saving and many students say they could not survive on their monthly grant — the maximum is 23,000 zloties (\$47) — without help from their parents.

As a result one in three stu-

dents has a steady job and another 40 per cent supplement their grants by working part-time, according to the student magazine ITD.

The government met student delegations last month for talks and has promised some changes in the military study classes which students must attend once a week for a year.

However, Ziemiński holds out little hope of an immediate improvement in students' lives or re-legalisation of the NZS.

He said police reprisals continued and more than 100 NZS members had been detained, beaten by police or appeared in misdemeanour courts this year for taking part in rallies and protests. NZS books and leaflets had been confiscated.

"We expect the authorities to oppose our actions, especially as we are demanding freedom of speech and association," he said. "But we'll carry on our struggle."

Sharp turn left in municipal elections changes Brazil's political scene

By Jorge Mederos
The Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil — The strong showing by left-wing candidates in Brazil's municipal elections has raised the profile of opposition challengers for the 1989 presidential race.

Left-wing parties took control in 10 of the nation's largest cities in what was seen as a rejection of President Jose Sarney's policies. Leftist candidates now go into the November 1989 presidential balloting, the first in 29 years, in a strong position.

Sarney and his allies have a controlled Brazilian politics since the nation returned to civilian rule in 1985 after 21 years of military government.

Public opinion surveys indicated that voters were dissatisfied with record inflation, political

corruption, plunging purchasing power and near-constant strikes. Citizens are blaming Sarney's centrist Democratic Movement Party for inflation that threatens to hit 2,000 per cent and rising unemployment.

In last Tuesday's balloting, 75 million Brazilians in all 26 states chose candidates from 29 parties for mayoral seats and city council.

Brazil has three more states than it did in 1986. Sarney's party had captured 22 of 23 state governorships in 1986 and swept the last municipal elections in 1985. This time, it won the mayor's seat in only four state capitals.

In next year's elections, a runoff between the top two finishers will determine the winner if no candidate wins a majority in the first round.

Various leftist parties won in

Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and eight other major cities. Still, no leftist party dominates nationwide and there is no guarantee they will forge a unified front in the presidential polling.

After the elections, congressman Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the leader and founder of the Workers' Party, is considered a serious contender for the presidency.

"It was a silent revolution," Lula, a former head of Brazil's radical metalworkers' union, told reporters. "The people understand now that we are not just another protest vote, but a serious government opposition party."

He emerged as a strong left-wing rival in Leonel Brizola, who has been leading in the polls as the most popular candidate for president. Brizola, the former

governor of Rio de Janeiro state who heads the Democratic Labour Party, saw his hand-picked candidate win as mayor in Rio.

The biggest surprise after Tuesday's vote was the projected victory in Sao Paulo of the Workers' Party candidate and self-proclaimed Marxist, Luiz Erundina. With 80 per cent of the vote counted in South America's most populous city, the former social worker led Paulo Maluf, a former military-backed candidate for president, by 5 per cent.

Erundina, 53, told reporters she would fund public health, transportation and abandoned children, in which she says "hardly anything ever was invested before" in the city of more than 12 million.

In Rio de Janeiro, the nation's second-largest city with more

than 8 million people, Marcello Alencar of the Democratic Labour Party was leading Jorge Bittar of the Workers' Party by 12 per cent with about 50 per cent of the votes counted.

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third-largest city, 41-year-old Joao Pimenta da Veiga Filho won by a comfortable margin. He represents the left-centre Brazilian Social Democracy Party, a large group that recently broke away from Sarney's Democratic Movement Party.

Newton Cardoso, centrist governor of Minas Gerais state north of Rio where Belo Horizonte is located, saw all his candidates defeated and is concerned about the results.

Cardoso, in an interview with Globo, the nation's largest broadcasting network, said of the leftist

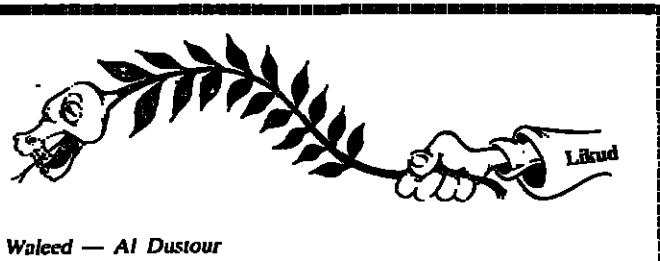
tilt: "This is dangerous for the country."

The conservative daily O Estado de S. Paulo referred to the victory of leftist mayoral candidates in most southern states as the creation of a "red axis."

"For the first time in Brazil's political history, the conservative forces received a slap in the face," political science professor Rene Dreifus told the Associated Press.

Dreifus, who has written about multinational companies in Brazil, said: "voters were tired of the political discourse of traditional parties and cast ballots in favour of candidates representing a more radical message."

Some people were concerned the leftward tilt could bring the military back onto the Brazilian political scene.



Waleed — Al Dustour

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Friday discussed His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Baghdad and his talks with President Saddam Hussein which focused on Arab affairs, Lebanon, the Gulf situation and bilateral issues. Jordanian-Iraqi coordination is continuing and serves as a basic component in the pan-Arab efforts for a stronger Arab Nation in confrontation with common challenges, the paper said. Consolidation of efforts through contacts with Arab leaders is essential to enable the Arabs to handle issues like Lebanon and the Gulf, and to rally world-wide support for the Palestinians in their drive to achieve their national goals, the paper added. It said that Jordan is backing words with deeds and at all regional and international levels and through its positive stands in defence of the Arab causes it is advocating the rights and interests of the Palestinian people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the role of France in helping to bring about a lasting peace in the Middle East through an international peace conference. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says what France intends to do is by far greater than its recognition of the independent Palestinian state. France, as President Mitterrand said, can and ought to pave the way and create the suitable atmosphere for the projected conference, not only in view of that country's interests with the Arabs but for the sake of serving the cause of world peace, the writer says. France's proposal for the creation of a committee to prepare for the coming conference is regarded as the first tangible step ever taken by a major Western nation towards establishing peace in our region. Kimawi adds. He expresses hope that France will play a significant role within the European Community to help the countries of the region to live in peace.

Al Dustour daily wrote also on the King's visit to Baghdad and said that his talks with the Iraqi leader came as a continuation of Jordan's efforts to consolidate unity among Arab ranks in the face of dangers confronting the nation. The paper also referred to the King's interview with the BBC's Arabic service in which he described the PLO's proclamation of the Palestine state as a constructive step contributing towards the Palestinian people's just cause. The Algiers proclamation, it added, places the world in general and Israel in particular face to face with a new reality and face to face with a new responsibility with regard to peace. The Palestinians, the paper noted, have now done all they could to reach a settlement, and the ball is now in the Israeli court awaiting positive action. It said that in the meantime the Arabs should not remain impassive, but should rather take constructive steps to bolster their unified stand.

Sawt Al Shaab dwelt on King Hussein's statements to the BBC which proved once again the Kingdom's total adherence to national causes and unified action to serve the Arab Nation. The paper said that the King's efforts to serve the Palestinian cause have been exerted at all levels; and that the country's severing of ties with the West Bank was a real contribution towards the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state which now seeks to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions to achieve peace. The Palestinians, as the King said, have done their share and proved to be flexible and responsive to the demands of the world community, thus paving the way for an international peace conference, the paper added. It said that such a move has exposed Israel's intransigent stand to the whole world.

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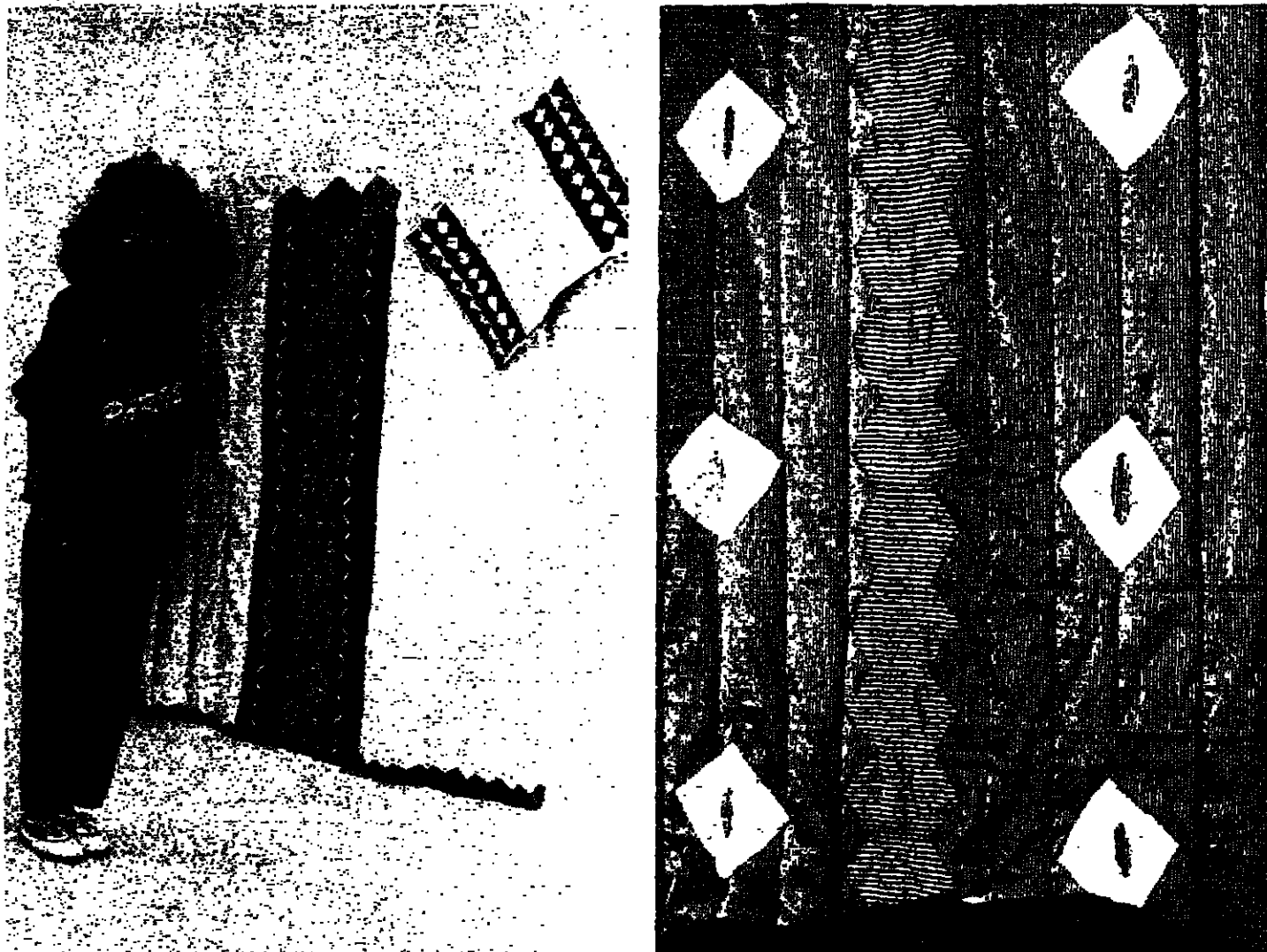
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Old and new: Rama Kurdi stands beside a mixture of modern patchwork and traditional cross stitching.

The Bani Hamida Project: Making use of culture

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has, in the last three years, witnessed a great revival of rug weaving, with the adoption of modern colours that would fit most contemporary interiors. One successful project was undertaken by Rebecca Salti, an ambitious young lady, who, through great efforts and sacrifices, managed to make the "Bani Hamida" rug weaving project a reality, and a success.

Lately, a new project, implemented in several countries by "Save the Children," has been made available in Jordan as well. Its aim is to provide training and technical assistance to low-income families to enable them to produce highly aesthetic artifacts. Women seeking improved income are provided with small-scale loans to enable them to purchase the necessary machines and materials to start a home-based income generating project.

"We help them help themselves," explains Taghreed Tubbeh, project manager, who is specialised in public administration and urban studies.

"This is an integrated development programme. It goes hand in hand with the health programme which includes immunisation, growth monitoring of children and health education for mothers. We decided to assist the women in their economic productivity as well. We look for the skills, machines and materials already available within the community. We then provide them with loans and supplemental training. Our aim, as a professional team, is to teach people to produce quality products. Our beneficiaries are currently producing foodstuffs under the su-

pervision of Muna Mashini, a nutritionist, and crafts, applying local traditional embroidery to a variety of items: picture frames, leather wallets, handbags etc."

They are trained by Maha Sakka, who heads the loan programmes, on how to calculate their overheads, production costs, how much of the income generated could be used to pay back the loan, etc.

Once their practical problems are taken care of, the women get their technical training from Rama Kurdi who is specialised in environmental design and human development. She is the creative designer of a new production line. Quilts based in their design on Jordanian folk dresses.

Rama uses traditional materials, she explains: "Thirty or forty years ago, people in this part of the world used a lot of satin, another material popularly employed was the saya, a textured cotton material with a surface polish that gives a sheen to only one side of the material, also the cotton material called dubet or tubeit used mainly in the madraha, the dress worn in southern Jordan." These materials are of Damascene or Egyptian provenance but can be purchased locally. Rama uses all these materials to create her quilts.

In her designs she employs modern patchwork and traditional cross stitching, with other forms of embroidery and a kind of applique known as the "talhameh", or "targi" (different materials stitched together) forming superb colour combinations and marvelous rhythms especially where the diamond shape is repeated continuously.

In some cases the talhameh includes lozenges with a slit in the centre, a motif long accepted as a

"hijab" to divert the evil eye. To see Rama's new creations is to admire them. Everyone who saw the works exhibited a month ago at the Jordan National Investment Bank premises along with the Bani Hamida rugs was impressed. Of course the items exhibited were prototypes, not for sale, but which can be commissioned by those interested from the Save the Children office in Jabal Luweibdeh.

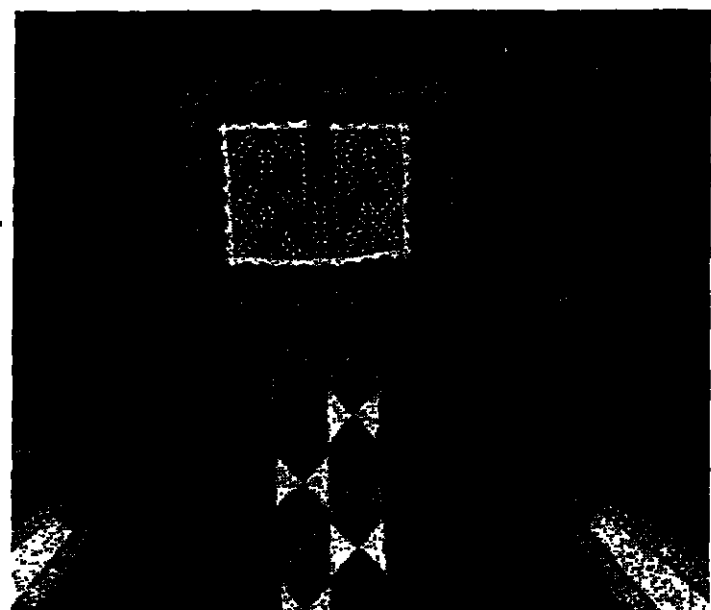
Rama's strength does not only lie in her aesthetic application of traditional designs in a most original manner, but in understanding the potentials and limitations of the people who work on the quilts to whom this project means earning an income with pride.

"It is very difficult for these women to cut identical pieces,

but this is what gives their work charm and individuality. I design my pieces with the craftsmen in mind, I ponder on what they can do."

Environmental design, her specialisation, is a new field of study offered by Syracuse University where she was awarded her Master's degree. It refers, in its teaching of design, to both the craftsman and the consumer, taking their character and taste into consideration. That may be the reason why the quilts and table mats of this worthy project have gained so much popularity in so little time.

Save the Children are having their fall exhibition at Rebecca Salti's home in South Shouneh in the Jordan Valley on Nov. 25, 26 and 27.



Nightwear: Traditional Jordanian dress patterns find new light as the decoration on quilts and bedding.

French Arabs wait Le Pen out

By James M. Markham

MARSEILLE — There are some new high-rolling players on the rough streets of Marseille, where the last immigrant off the boat has always had to fight the hardest for survival and, later, for wealth and power. It is sometimes said that there are no true French in the city's demographic bouillabaisse, but that there are plenty of Italians, Spaniards, Poles, Armenians, Jews — and Arabs.

As the last off the boat, the Algerians have been quite literally invited to take a return trip to North Africa.

In the presidential election in the spring, Jean-Marie Le Pen, who leads the xenophobic National Front, found his most fervent supporters among people here with surnames like Innocenti or Sanchez.

"Le Pen can't put the blame on all the immigrants because in the end he would have all France against him, because France is a nation of immigrants," said Nadia Laib, 32, a lawyer who arrived in France from Algeria at the age of 6 months.

"Look at the people who followed Le Pen in Marseille — Italians and Spaniards — and try to find a 'real Frenchman' among them," she added.

Le Pen's anti-Arab thunders momentarily frightened many of the 150,000 North Africans who live legally in the Marseille region, but very few decided to leave. And while many North Africans are poor or jobless, others are making it, and their political clout is beginning to be felt.

Mustafa Slimani, 30 and a millionaire, came to Marseille from Algeria when he was 3; his wife, Voudia, was born here and her Algerian father owned a food shop.

In the last five years, Mustafa and Voudia Slimani have taken the food shop and created a chain of 10 meat stores that cater to a heavily, but not exclusively, North African clientele.

"Now the banks are courting us," said Mrs. Slimani, a proud, elegant and forceful 30-year-old who is a full partner in the Halles Méditerranéennes des Viandes.

"But a few years ago they didn't

want to talk to us. We are here to build up this country, not destroy it."

It is no secret that Slimani, who has sponsored soccer teams and done other good works for the North African neighbourhoods, is being courted not only by banks but also by the city's governing Socialist establishment. He was offered a slot on the Socialist ticket in next March's municipal elections, but declined, for the moment.

Sitting behind a poster showing his "Super Saber" tennis shoe, Nasser Sabar recalled arriving in Marseille at the age of 17 and peddling shirts on the streets.

Now 31, he presides over a ready-wear commercial empire that stretches from France to Taiwan.

"I consider myself a Marseillais," said the jolly Algerian Berber, who has retained his Algerian passport while making his considerable fortune in France.

"I believe that one is accepted through success," he said. "The most basic kind of racism is a scorn for the poor."

For many, a sense of distance in time and culture from Algeria is made more painful by the racism encountered in everyday life in Marseille.

"I don't feel I'm the last off the boat," said Hadj Bezzarraf, 32, a welder who grew up in a Marseille slum. "I feel I'm still on the boat."

He and his wife, Djemila, recently opened a restaurant in the chic yacht harbour in Martigues, 32 kilometres west of Marseille, not the likeliest spot to find a North African bistro.

Over a *tajine* lunch, the Bezzararfs described the petty bureaucratic and other hurdles placed in their way to deter them from opening the Dimatoun restaurant in Martigues — and the swastikas painted on its shutters. They said that French customers openly express racist remarks while dining, sometimes congratulating the Bezzararfs for running a "clean" Arab restaurant.

"We fought to make it," said Mrs. Bezzarraf, who speaks French with a distinctive Marseille twang and knows only a smattering of Arabic. "But the climate has changed since Le Pen. Demons have been awakened."

Phone bills free of mystery

A SMALL (175 x 125 x 37 mm), but highly advanced, French-designed piece of equipment, made by INVENTEL, keeps a check on telephone and tele-processing expenditures, in a way that was previously only possible for telephone switchboards. It is thus of particular interest to small businesses, people in the liberal professions, tradesmen, shop-keepers and even private individuals who are interested to know whether it was the baby-sitter, the children or passing friends who were responsible for the last phone-bill.

The "Temoir" records and permanently keeps information concerning the last 125 telephone or tele-processing calls made over the line to which it is connected, between the telephone plug linked to the telephone exchange and the terminal telephone or tele-processing set.

For each call made, it shows the date and the time, the number dialled and the corresponding number of units. This information can be freely consulted, for instance, on the minitel videotex terminal screen, to which the "Temoir" can be linked up. The screen then displays a menu and offers two choices: the possibility of consulting the calls made in general, or simply the last call. In the first case, the screen recapitulates the information concerning the last fourteen calls made. The "continue" and "return" keys serve to display all the calls. A totaliser, included in the menu, shows the expenditures in the time span fixed by the user. The second option gives a detailed justification of expenditure on a call, which is useful in case you are double-billed.

As the "Temoir" has two special sockets, it can be connected up to a videotex printer in order to have a record of phone-calls made on the line to which it is fitted, or to provide a note justifying telephone expenses.

This piece of equipment normally works off the electricity mains, but, as it is fitted with accumulators, it carries on working if there is a power-cut. It also detects and records the times when the telephone has been unplugged.

This second generation of expenditure-meters is no doubt the tool for managing the telecommunications bill, that many people have been waiting for. — L'Actualite en France.

By Jacques Baudeneau

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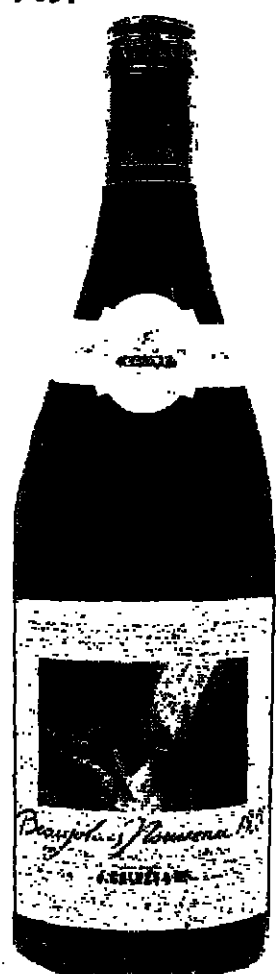
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Oil prices jump

VIENNA (R) — Oil prices jumped Friday after OPEC ministers meeting in Vienna said they had almost clinched an agreement to cut excess output from Jan. 1.

But the deal to ease a glut and drive up energy costs still hinges on the attitude of Iran which has yet to accept that Iraq, its enemy during the Gulf war, should have an equal production quota.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh flew to Tehran early Friday for consultations with his government.

"Maybe I will come back Sunday," he told Reuters.

The group postponed an 11 a.m. (1000 GMT) formal session of its 13 oil ministers until Saturday evening to allow time for them to brief their governments on details of the package. But some delegates believe talks may not resume until Sunday.

The proposed deal would cut OPEC's total output by about 20 per cent to 18.5 million barrels daily for the first half of 1989.

The crucial element is that Iraq is assigned an individual quota equal to that of Iran, historically a bigger producer. The Iraqis have been adamant in demanding parity with Iran.

Their insistence and Iran's unwillingness to concede their demand resulted in eight days of haggling in Vienna.

Iran's Azagadeh said Thursday evening he had agreed to all elements of the package except the one which had deadlocked the talks — parity with Iraq.

Petroleum prices jumped in Asia and later in Europe as traders judged that he might return from his consultations in Tehran ready to strike a deal.

North Sea Brent blend, the most widely-traded crude, traded in Europe as high as \$14.38 a barrel, up almost \$1.40 from Thursday, before easing a little when buyers decided to withdraw from the market for a while to assess prospects.

IF OPEC does clinch the accord and all 13 members abide by their mandated output quotas — something that few have been doing lately — crude oil may rise to the extent that prices at the petrol pump in many nations could edge up too.

"I think it is very possible that Iran is going to accept the idea," said Masao Ito of Nippon Oil Company in Tokyo.

"If the current OPEC meeting is going to produce a fruitful result, I think prices in the international crude oil market will increase by \$2 to \$3," he noted.

United Arab Emirates Minister Mana Said Al Otaibi, who has demanded a higher quota than

OPEC has been disposed to give him, said he was also leaving to consult his president, Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, returning Saturday.

Under the proposed agreement, Iran and Iraq would both pump 14.27 per cent of total Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) output, or 2.64 million barrels a day each.

The proposal also says OPEC will maintain its current target price of \$18 a barrel, in recent months a largely academic figure as excess group output has sent spot quotes \$7 lower.

Iran's persistent refusal to agree that Iraq should have an equal output quota has led the Iraqis to boycott OPEC production-sharing agreements since late 1986, which has encouraged other members to flout their quotas.

Market analysts said the immediate question is whether the Vienna package can be sold in Tehran.

Mike Rothman, senior oil analyst at Merrill Lynch who has been following the talks from Vienna, said: "It is a reasonable compromise... everyone gets a little something. This proposal will prevent a collapse in prices."

Azagadeh can argue several factors in favour of the package.

— Iran has defended its own percentage share of OPEC output, its 14.27 per cent is the same as in 1986.

— It can claim Iraq has not won true parity, since according to the deal's complex mathematics Baghdad will be increasing its quota only because other countries opted to donate part of their percentage shares of overall output and make room for it.

— OPEC is reaffirming its goal of an \$18 price. And the deal offers a chance of getting actual prices up close to that level. That would be in line with a traditionally "hawkish" Iranian stance on pricing and evidence that Iran has managed to head off any move to trim the reference price to \$15.

— Bringing Iraq back into the quota system will thwart its plans to raise production to four million barrels per day.

France said Thursday it was ready to offer Moscow credits of around \$2 billion but would also keep an eye on the progress of disarmament talks while it helps to finance the modernisation of the Soviet economy.

On the eve of a visit to the Soviet Union by President Francois Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas confirmed reports that a credit line worth 12 billion francs (\$2 billion) was in the pipeline.

Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy, without mentioning any amounts, said separately that the French government would back some of the bank loans, but would not try to outbid its European partners in order to lend the Kremlin money.

State-owned Credit Lyonnais is reported to be organising the loans. Its chairman, Jean-Yves Haberer, will be among the French delegation in Moscow.

Some U.S. and other Western critics have said that the West, in its enthusiasm for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, should not be too generous with credits in case they inadvertently help the Kremlin to pay more arms.

In October, Italy became the first Western country to extend an intergovernmental credit to Moscow since Soviet forces entered Afghanistan in 1980, signing a loan worth \$725 million.

During a visit by Chancellor Helmut Kohl last month, West Germany granted Moscow credits worth \$1.7 billion.

The total of credits Moscow is set to reap from the West this year is estimated at \$7 billion. Dumas told French radio

Iraq to set up stock exchange

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq will establish a stock exchange to deal with a growing volume of transactions in shares of newly established private or government-owned companies, the minister of finance announced Thursday.

Minister Hikmat Omer Al Hadithi told the ruling daily Al Thawra that the initial, small-scale financial market will be temporarily housed at the Industrial Bank before private sector dealers will be allowed to buy and sell stocks and bonds.

The minister did not specify when trading will begin.

The minister said more and more stocks are being traded in Iraq because many new companies are being set up.

The government recently offered more than 70 industrial and agricultural projects for sale to the private sector, but many have not been sold for lack of private capital. President Saddam Hussein, since the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, has been trying to liberalise

the country's economic laws to encourage more private investment in reconstruction projects.

Arab banks hope for large financing role

Meanwhile, Arab commercial banks hope an Iraqi drive to rebuild from the ruins of war with Iran will inject life into their funds, idle during a regional recession.

"We expect a large role in financing projects in Iraq as (Iraqi) President Saddam Hussein has said he will give priority to Arabs," Adnan Al Hindi, secretary-general of the Arab Banking Union (ABU) told Reuters.

Hindi said Arab bankers at a three-day meeting in Abu Dhabi last week had decided to offer Iraq loans for reconstruction despite its foreign debt estimated at \$60 billion.

"Iraq has enormous financial and natural resources and is the second Arab state in terms of crude reserves," said Hindi, adding that it did not compare

with debtor nations like Mexico and Argentina.

Deposits in Arab commercial banks rose to some \$175 billion in 1987, compared with \$155 billion in 1986, after investment opportunities declined because of a recession caused by low oil prices.

"These deposits have become costly (for banks) and need to be released... Arab banks now feel Iraq will be an important outlet for those funds," the head of the Beirut-based ABU said.

Hindi said that Arab bankers were optimistic that much of the Arab funds invested abroad during the eight-year Gulf war would return home when Iraq implemented a comprehensive peace.

But he ruled out that business in Arab states would expand to the levels of the oil boom in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"The oil boom was an exceptional period that will never be repeated. We are talking about a recovery, not a boom," he said.

East-West trade expands

GENEVA (AP) — An improved political climate and economic reforms in most East European countries have led to increased East-West trade in 1988, according to a U.N. report issued Thursday.

But after turning out a combined \$2 billion surplus last year, the Soviet Union and its six East European allies were projected by the report to register a slight trade deficit in 1988.

Net indebtedness of the East bloc was forecast to drop from \$102 billion last year to \$99 billion in 1988. The report said the decline was exclusively due to the relatively higher average value of the dollar against other Western currencies. A considerable portion of Eastern debt is denominated in dollars.

The report, compiled by experts of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, said the improved political climate and economic reforms in Eastern Europe have been the "catalyst for a flurry of contacts, negotiations and agreements."

It said economic cooperation between East and West also gained momentum with last June's accord between the Soviet bloc's Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, also known as Comecon, and the European Community.

"This accord... sets the stage for more intense economic interchange," it said.

The volume of Soviet exports to the West rose 12 per cent during the first half of 1988 while imports were up only 10 per cent. But a 23 per cent increase in the value of imports accounted for what the report called an "unusually large trade deficit with the West," projected to total about \$2.4 billion by the end of this year.

Last year, the Soviets ran up a

surplus of \$800 million. In contrast, Moscow's six allies were forecast to retain their trade surplus with the West. For this year, the six countries were forecast to achieve a combined surplus of about \$2 billion, compared with \$1.2 billion in 1987.

The volume of exports of the six countries to the West increased by six per cent while imports stagnated. But the exports' value rose 14 per cent while imports were up 11 per cent.

Bulgaria was the most significant exception, according to the report. Stagnating sales and a continued import boom led to a Bulgarian trade deficit with the West of \$900 million in the first six months alone.

Net indebtedness of Moscow's allies was forecast to decline from \$75.5 billion to \$73.9 billion, while Soviet debt was expected to be reduced from \$26.0 to \$25.1 billion.

Poland remained the bloc's no. 1 debtor nation with a projected \$35.7 billion, compared with \$36.2 billion in 1987.

Romania, pledged to eliminate external debt under its domestic austerity line, was at the bottom end of the list. The report said its debt was likely to decline again drastically to \$2.1 billion, down from \$4.3 billion last year.

Prospects for a continued expansion of East European exports remain uncertain, the report said.

Import appear likely to remain sluggish due to external financial constraints in a number of Eastern countries and the desire by others to hold down debt, it said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday Nov. 24, 1988 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	462.0	464.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.3	383.2
Pound Sterling	848.1	852.3	Dutch guilder	238.6	239.8
Deutschemark	269.2	270.5	Swedish crown	77.1	77.5
Swiss franc	321.1	322.7	Italian lira (for 100)	36.2	36.4
French franc	78.7	79.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	128.5	129.1

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Nov. 19-23	Nov. 12-16
Daily average	JD 810,203	JD 1,919,929
Total volume	JD 4,051,017	JD 7,679,718
Total shares	3,026,006	4,734,532
No. of contracts	3,385	4,183

Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 2,231,176 (55.0%)	JD 3,183,448 (41.4%)
Financial	JD 1,762,104 (44.5%)	JD 4,144,603 (54.0%)
Service	(0.3%)	(2.5%)
Insurance	(1.1%)	(2.1%)
Share price index	125.7	126.9
No. of companies	78	77
Price movement (rise)	18	32
(decline)	52	33
(stable)	8	12

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets.

One Sterling	1.8285/95	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar
	1.7180/87	Deutschemarks
	1.9380/90	Dutch guilders
	1.4378/85	Swiss francs
	35.97/36.00	Belgian francs
	5.8660/710	French francs
	1275/1276	Italian lire
	121.15/25	Japanese yen
	5.9950/6.000	Swedish crowns
	6.4770/820	Norwegian crowns
	6.6250/300	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	422.50/423.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A higher-than-expected profit for the ANZ banking group and firm interest in miners amid strong base metal prices saw Australian stocks close higher. At the close of floor trading, the All Ordinaries index was up 6.7 points to 1505.6.

TOKYO — Share prices ended the day higher after an uneventful session. The Nikkei index rose 66.62 points, or 0.23 per cent, to 29,406.65.

HONG KONG — Steady profit-taking throughout the day brought the market off its early morning highs but share analysts said technical indicators remain good. The Hang Seng index ended 9.94 points down at 2,656.08.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed marginally lower due to a lack of institutional buying interest and bouts of light profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index dipped 1.25 points to close at 1,010.94.

FRANKFURT — West German shares closed lower as nervousness about a dollar decline sparked position-squaring. The real-time 30-share DAX index closed at 1,275.41, off 3.82 points from the previous close.

ZURICH — Swiss share prices finished firmer in moderately active trading in the absence of fresh developments in Wall Street. The All Share Swiss index rose 5.3 points to 919.9.

PARIS — French share prices were higher at midsession, extending early gains but in this volume. The 50-share bourse indicator was 0.26 per cent up after posting a slim 0.03 per cent gain at the opening.

LONDON — The Financial Times/Stock Exchange index of the top 100 British companies' shares slumped 2.8 per cent or 50.5 points to 1,782.5 by 1409 GMT on news of a record £2.43 billion current account deficit in October and a signal from the Bank of England that it wanted base rates to rise one point to 13 per cent.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed wide and deep losses as oil prices surged but trading eased after early selling. The Dow was off 17 at 2075 and declining issues led gainers by over three-to-one.

Bonn seeks Iranian contracts

BONN (R) — Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher flies to Tehran Sunday seeking to ensure that West German companies reap the benefit from the years when Bonn maintained good ties with Iran while the rest of the West was hostile.

"The Iranians have told us that they will give German firms preference because we remained strictly neutral during the Gulf war," one government source said Thursday.

Genscher will be accompanied by a large business delegation on his three-day visit.

"Genscher will be encouraging the Iranian leadership in its course of opening up," a source close to the German foreign minister said.

Since the U.N.-negotiated Gulf ceasefire, which Genscher was instrumental in persuading Tehran to accept, Iran has acted quickly to attract foreign expertise and goods to rebuild the country after eight years of war.

The war effort swallowed a third of Iran's yearly oil income, and lasting peace with Iraq would free billions of dollars for much-needed imports.

West Germany's export-oriented economy is vying for a major share of contracts, especially in construction and high technology.

The Tehran Times newspaper said Wednesday: "Whatever the immediate reason for the talks, or irrespective of whether there will be breakthroughs on the questions of the hostages, Germany can still play a vital role in the economic reconstruction of Iran."

Meanwhile, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, gave public backing Thursday to Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, who has come under attack for his economic policies.

Resalat newspaper, mouthpiece of the Iranian private sector, has accused Mousavi's cabinet of foot-dragging in loosening the government's grip on the economy.

Mousavi has defended the policies of tight economic controls imposed during the eight-year war with Iraq, saying that it would be harmful to give leeway to private businessmen.

Khomeini said a special council would announce measures to rebuild the economy after the war

and urged Mousavi to organise the effort with special attention to the needs of poor people.

The ceasefire between Iran and Iraq raised hopes of better conditions for many Iranians pinched by soaring prices and a shortage of consumer goods during the war.

Khomeini said no one should complain the shortages just because there was no war, asking rhetorically: "Is it possible to put back on stream all the damaged power and fuel supply centres and factories overnight?"

"With the large extent of the damage, one should not expect quick improvements... it will take years to rebuild the Islamic homeland and solve the problems," he added.

In contrast to Mousavi, some other leaders, including President Ali Khamenei, have said that an order from Khomeini to hand back foreign trade to the people should be implemented to the letter.

The commerce ministry said Wednesday it was lifting import restrictions on 20 types of goods, ranging from paper to agricultural tools. This would allow the private sector to import and sell them without price-setting by the government.

He told the Paris daily Liberation that the trade balance with the Soviet Union was heavily in Moscow's favour and added: "Since we're working, unfortunately, with small numbers it shouldn't be too difficult to redress the situation."

"I consider it normal that French enterprise should be looking for contracts, there and elsewhere," he noted.

Speaking at a press briefing in Paris, Berégovoy said the French state-owned export credit guarantee agency, Coface, would back some loans to the Soviet Union, but would not try to sweeten the terms in order to outbid its Western rivals.

"France is not upping the bidding," he said.

Some analysts have said Italy's loan offered terms which were to be easy. And while West German bankers said their credits were purely commercial and linked only to the large contracts involved, Berégovoy said the German terms were also enhanced.

He estimated Oman's budget deficit next year at between 200 and 240 million riyals (\$520 and \$625 million) — a rise of more than 20 per cent on the projected 1988 deficit of 194 million riyals (\$505 million).

Oman, which is not a member of the OPEC group, produces around 600,000 barrels of oil per day.

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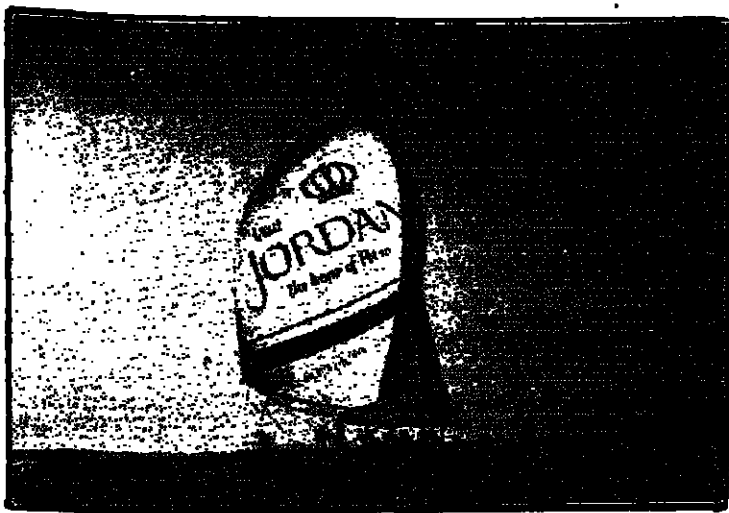
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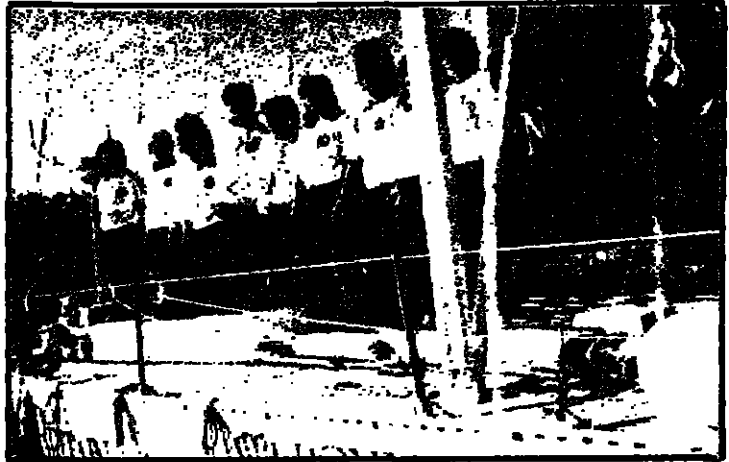


Royal Jordanian yacht takes off from Southampton

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Jordanian yacht has arrived at the Spanish port of Cadiz. The yacht will participate in the sailboat race scheduled to take off from the port of Cadiz and destined Oakland in New Zealand.

The boat left Southampton, in southern England, on Nov. 14. Royal Jordanian Assistant Chairman for Public Relations Munib Touqan said that the Royal Jordanian participation in this race is an important event.

He added that the Royal Jordanian was keen that the boat set out from Southampton on Nov. 14 because it commemorated His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. The crew consists of women coming from seven countries.



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WHO NEEDS ENTRIES?

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 6 4 3
♥ K Q J 6
♦ J 10 4
♣ 9 7 6

WEST
♠ 8 7 5
♥ 10 8 5 3 2
♦ K 8 7 6
♣ A

EAST
♠ 9
♥ 9 7 4
♦ Q 9 2
♣ K Q J 10 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 2
♥ A
♦ A 5 3
♣ 5 3 2

The bidding:
East South West North
3 ♠ Dbl Pass 3 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass 4 ♠

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

When the points are divided more or less equally between declarer and dummy, hands "play themselves." That is because it is easy to maneuver from one hand to the other, so assets can be utilized to best advantage. When there is no obvious means of transportation, the help of the enemy must sometimes be enlisted.

East took advantage of the vulnerability to preempt on a hand that was a playing trick short. South showed his strength by first making

a takeout double and then bidding his suit, and North judged his three trumps and heart values merited a raise to game.

West led the ace of clubs and shifted to the eight of spades. Obviously, the ace of clubs had been bare, and there would be no problem if trumps were 2-2—declarer would be able to cross to the table in trumps to use the hearts. So declarer won the ace of spades and continued with the king, and was only a little disappointed when East showed out. Why? Because he had spotted a line which would guarantee the contract except in the unlikely event that East held both missing diamond honors.

Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, then exited with his deuce of trumps. West was forced to win this trick, and he was faced with a choice of unpalatable alternatives. Since a heart lead was tantamount to surrender, West tried one last shot—he led the king of diamonds. Declarer had available a counter-stroke—he allowed that to win the trick. On the diamond continuation the ten forced East's queen, and after winning the ace the jack was the entry to the table. (Note that had West exited with a low diamond, declarer would have split dummy's honors and still had an entry to dummy as the cards lie.)



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RONOC

NORST

DIMRAY

CHROID

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: KNELL, GAWKY, NORMAL, DEBATE

Answer: That engaged couple were on the verge of breaking up before she finally managed to do this—BREAK HIM DOWN

NFL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (AP) — Standings in the National Football League following Thursday's games:

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
XBuffalo	11	1	0	.917	252	154
New England	7	5	0	.583	196	225
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	266	218
N.Y. Jets	5	6	1	.458	239	245
Miami	5	7	0	.417	195	240
Central						
Cincinnati	9	3	0	.750	360	240
Houston	9	4	0	.692	326	294
Cleveland	7	5	0	.583	204	193
Pittsburgh	2	10	0	.167	229	333
West						
Denver	6	6	0	.500	237	255
L.A. Raiders	6	6	0	.500	219	234
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	212	238
San Diego	4	8	0	.333	167	230
Kansas City	3	8	1	.292	181	218
National Conference						
East						
N.Y. Giants	7	5	0	.583	253	246
Philadelphia	7	5	0	.583	283	254
Phoenix	7	5	0	.583	282	274
Washington	6	6	0	.500	278	307
Dallas	2	11	0	.154	213	317
Central						
Chicago	10	2	0	.833	253	152
Minnesota	9	4	0	.692	327	185
Tampa Bay	3	9	0	.250	213	308
Detroit	3	10	0	.231	168	265
Green Bay	2	10	0	.167	182	246
West						
New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	270	186
L.A. Rams	7	5	0	.583	300	232
San Francisco	7	5	0	.583	262	226
Atlanta	4	8	0	.333	208	260

Squash tournament set for Nov. 30

AMMAN (J.T.) — Aramex International Courier will be sponsoring a squash tournament at Al Ribat Sports Centre from Nov. 30 to Dec. 1st, 1988.

During the three-day tournament, Jordanian squash players will compete against the club members. Among the participants will be the Royal Jordanian squash team and the Aramex squash team.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There is a tendency to live in a make-believe world. Fantasies reduce the chance of success in practical matters. It is not a favorable time for business matters which depend on reliability.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Break with conventional routines, and try something different. A short trip to a favorite nature spot would be rewarding. Compliment someone.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): A romantic involvement makes for an interesting departure. Schedules and promises may be altered. Intensify your focus on health matters.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Stay with a friendly group today. The familiar basics (home, family, etc.) will be nicely. Accept invitations to social events.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): A scandal may have the phones hot. Don't get involved if it doesn't concern you. Shop for gifts for family members and friends.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Your creativity attracts you to color and nice things. Buy, but be certain your purchase is functional and will be appreciated later.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Good communications come your way. Use them where they can be used to your advantage. Make plans for expanding your education.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Finances improve. Your heavy load lightens. Contact with a relative can be appropriate and rewarding. Romance needs direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Travel plans can be made. Others may be visiting in the future. A thorny problem is settled. Suggest but do not insist on your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Social activities are fun but also more than you bargained for. Keep your expectations to yourself so you are not disappointed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Your self-discipline has brought you closer to your goals. Relax with children who need free time with you. Organize home activities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Getting errands done early clears the way for other things. Someone wants to control an important decision. You currently need privacy.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Demands can drive you crazy. Take care of basics, and relax. The immature emotions of others are a test. Be understanding to succeed.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernard Meron

1 Across: Dryly, defender
5 Down: Defeat
10 Down: Icon
14 Across: Arrow poison
15 Down: Sphere
16 Down: Despot
17 Down: Lodi
18 Across: Antique
19 Down: Needle case
20 Across: Payment for
22 Across: Speak
24 Down: Russia, denial
25 Down: d'Orsay
26 Across: On cloud nine
28 Down: Shook
33 Across: Side and guide
34 Down: "Mut-cracker"
35 Across: Bullfight cheer
36 Across: Cowboy wear
38 Down: Give up
39 Down: Feminine suffix
40 Down: Servants
41 Across: Charlotte
42 Down: Brass
43 Across: Instruments
44 Across: Cafe employee
45 Down: shew
46 Across: Rose of the diamond
47 Down: Feeds on herbage
50 Across: Part of the ear
55 Down: Hale
57 Across: Encourage
58 Down: Kismet
59 Across: Related on the mother's side
60 Down: Soloway
61 Down: vendor
62 Across: "Popeye" cartoonist
63 Down: Paradise
64 Down: Hold back
65 Down: Pueblo Indian
66 Down: Gilt
67 Down: Valley
68 Down: Pets
69 Down: Calypso
70 Down: Sids bluish
71 Down: Dam KI
72 Down: Some nuts
73 Down: Garden tool
74 Down: Arrows
75 Down: Gad
76 Down: Egg on
77 Down: Beg for short
78 Down: Eye
79 Down: Or, negative
80 Down: In a million

Maradona, Napoli seek revenge over AC Milan

ROME (R) — Diego Maradona's Napoli, flush with goals and success, will seek revenge for a defeat that cost them a second successive Italian league title when they face champions AC Milan at San Paolo stadium Sunday.

Victory over Milan would complete an impressive trio of wins for Napoli after their 5-3 victory at Juventus in the league last Sunday and Wednesday's 1-0 success at Bordeaux in their UEFA Cup third round tie.

Bordeaux have another difficult home game at the weekend against French League leaders Paris Saint-Germain and in the Spanish League, Athletic Bilbao, who are doing as poorly as Bordeaux, may not relish going to table-topping Real Madrid.

When Napoli and AC Milan last met in May, Milan produced their finest form to win 3-2 and snatch away the league lead two games before the end of the season.

Milan romped on to the title as Napoli, their morale shattered and riven by dissent, plunged to consecutive defeats.

This season things could not be more different. Napoli, the top goalscorers and second behind Internazionale, are in devastating form while Milan, with Dutch

who, in his debut for France last week, scored one goal and made the other in the 3-2 World Cup defeat to Yugoslavia in Belgrade.

Auxerre, one point behind Paris Saint-Germain as the league opens its second half, could well take all three points at modest Laval, but third-placed Marseille have a hard task at home to Lille, who have climbed to seventh with a good run.

Spanish League

Spanish League leaders Real Madrid receive Athletic Bilbao, who are 12th in the league and whose home draw against Real Betis last week followed five consecutive defeats.

Second-placed Barcelona are expected to keep their challenge to Real Madrid alive as they receive humble Murcia, who have never won at the NOU championship.

Third-placed Seville, with their new goalkeeper, Soviet International Rinal Dasayev, take on town rivals Real Betis.

W. German league

Bayern Munich have just the league fixture they need Saturday to fire them up after their disappointing defeat by Inter Milan Wednesday night.

The 1987 West German cham-

Liverpool not yet ready to step down

LONDON (AP) — Like a wounded animal, Liverpool is roaring back with a vengeance to squash talk of an end to its domination of English soccer.

Fielding a team missing six injured players, the First Division champions taught the main pretenders to their throne a soccer lesson this week, and are beginning to look as formidable as ever.

The maestros from Merseyside may be six points adrift in the First Division standings, but all the old confidence and teamwork are streaming back.

Wednesday, in its most severe test of the season to date, Liverpool took on Arsenal in a second replay of a league cup third round match.

Arsenal, England's in-form team of the moment and lying second in the championship, was protecting a 12-match unbeaten run. The north London team had reached the final of the previous two league cup competitions and had lost only two of 22 matches in the tournament.

So when Paul Merson gave Arsenal a 26th-minute lead against the run of play, the Londoners looked like ending Liverpool's interest in at least one of the season's domestic competitions.

Suddenly, Liverpool's makeshift line-up, without such stars as John Barnes, Allan Hansen, Gary Gillespie and the substituted Ian Rush, moved into top gear.

Steve McMahon equalised with a stupendous 25-yard drive and

One of the top First Division games features a match-up of lesser-known teams when fifth-placed Southampton hosts third-placed Millwall.

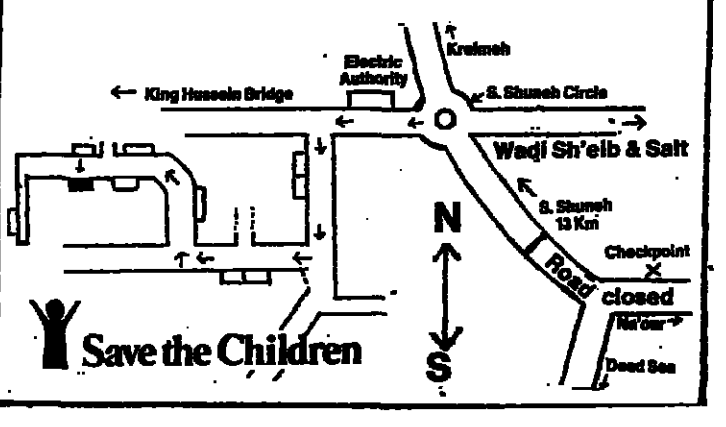
Tottenham

Tottenham Hotspur will be keen to extend its mini-revival of three unbeaten league matches after a disastrous start to the season.

The Spurs, now safely off the

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF H.M. QUEEN NOOR THE BANI HAMIDA WEAVING EXHIBITION

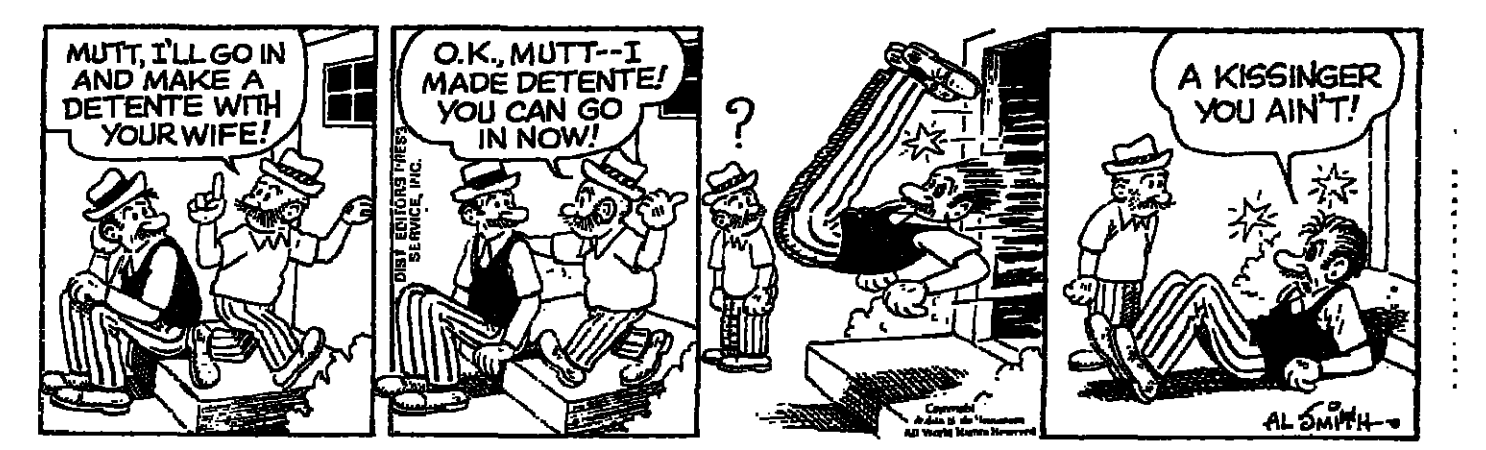
at Jordan Valley — South Shuneh
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday - Sunday, 25 - 27 November



Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



سنة ١٤١٠ هـ

Ethnic violence hits Armenia

MOSCOW (R) — Two people were killed in separate incidents as ethnic violence spread from Azerbaijan to neighbouring Armenia in the Soviet Transcaucasus, an official Armenian source said Friday.

The source, who declined to be identified, said an Azerbaijani and an Armenian were killed in the Armenian towns of Goris and Kalinin Thursday.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was clamped on the Armenian capital Yerevan Friday and troops and armoured personnel carriers were stationed on the streets.

But a spokesman for the Armenian news agency Armenpress said there had been no incidents in Yerevan.

Curfews were earlier clamped on the Azerbaijani capital Baku and town of Kirovabad and Nakhichevan after rioting in which three soldiers were officially reported killed and 126 people, mostly Azerbaijanis, were injured.

With those three cities still tense, Armenian refugees — caught up in the renewed violence over the disputed Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh — streamed across the border into neighbouring Armenia.

The Armenpress spokesman said about 1,700 Armenian refugees had arrived, many of them helped by Soviet troops.

In the latest incidents the Armenian source said the Armenian died after a group of Azerbaijanis attacked an Armenian family. He had no information about the Azerbaijanis' death.

Fresh details were also beginning to emerge about events in Kirovabad, where three soldiers were killed Tuesday after they were called in to separate Azerbaijanis from Armenians.

The Armenian source said 60 Armenian houses in the town were burned down by Azerbaijanis.

jani mobs. Eighty Azerbaijanis were being held in the military garrison and an investigation was being carried out by a Soviet federal prosecutor.

He denied reports circulating among Armenian sources in Moscow and emigre groups in Paris that many Armenians had been killed.

"No Armenians were killed in Kirovabad," he said. "The Armenian quarter of Kirovabad is safely guarded by troops. Armenians living in other districts have been transferred there."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov also said there had been no more casualties in Kirovabad since the soldiers died there Tuesday.

"Yesterday, it was much calmer there," he told Reuters. "There is a curfew there and it helps."

Baku also appeared quieter, although troops in armoured cars and trucks patrolled the streets and meetings were held in the centre of the city, an Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

A spokesman for the regional Communist Party committee said the situation in the Nakhichevan region was gradually returning to normal and troops had withdrawn from the town Wednesday.

He said Armenians had moved to the town from outlying villages to escape clashes but he cast doubt on reports that the army had used helicopters in the evacuation.

There was no indication when the dusk-to-dawn curfew on three Azerbaijani areas would be lifted.



A scene from a recent confrontation between student protesters and police in Seoul (Sygma photo)

Students, monks battle police in persisting anti-Chun protest

SEOUL (Agencies) — Some 1,000 radical students and Buddhist monks hurling firebombs battled riot police here Friday, demanding the arrest of former President Chun Doo-hwan for corruption during his administration.

In the central city of Taejeon, some 250 student radicals took part in an anti-government rally and marched through downtown streets, demanding Chun's arrest. There were no reports of clashes between the students and police.

Street battles in Seoul broke out when about 1,000 radical students hurled hundreds of firebombs at riot police, who were trying to block the protesters.

The protesters shouted, "Arrest Chun Doo-hwan," and police retaliated with tear-gas. Police later said there were no injuries or arrests reported.

The protesters were among 2,000 students who gathered at Dongguk University in eastern Seoul to demand Chun's arrest. After the rally, many of them stormed out the school to clash with riot police in streets and alleyways.

Several thousand riot police in green combat fatigues and black-visored helmets ringed the campus to stop students from breaking through. Police fired volleys of choking tear-gas and hurled

back rocks and other missiles.

During the campus rally, student leaders denounced Chun's apology Wednesday for corruption and human rights abuses. Leaders demanded the former president be arrested and prosecuted for numerous crimes.

Protesters also denounced President Roh Tae-woo and demanded he also be punished. Speakers accused Roh of trying to protect Chun. Protesters burned an effigy of Roh.

"Punish Roh Tae-woo," protesters chanted. Chun, under attack for corruption and other scandals, has taken refuge in a remote Buddhist monastery on the east coast and the monks claimed his presence there was a desecration of a holy place.

"Drive out Chun from our sacred temple," the monks chanted.

Chun, in a nationally televised speech Wednesday, apologised for corruption and abuse of power under his authoritarian government. Chun said he was surrendering all his personal property worth \$24 million and going into internal exile.

Chun has denied any personal corruption, but some of his relatives and associates have been convicted of or charged with embezzlement and other offenses.

Flood disaster claims 200 lives in Thailand

HAT YAI, Thailand (R) — More than 200 bodies, many entangled in twisted undergrowth and trees, have been recovered after Thailand's worst flood disaster in at least 38 years devastated a vast swathe of country.

Officials said walls of water that swept through southern towns and villages made a quarter of a million people homeless and whole hillside, loosened by rain, buried villages.

This southern commercial capital looked as if it had been sluiced out by a mighty hose. Wooden houses were swept away. Vehicles thrown around like toys and roads destroyed.

As the sun shone and the floods receded Friday electricity and water were still cut. Banks, schools and many shops remained closed.

Five days of monsoon rains early this week brought the flooding and destruction to eight southern provinces.

Nakhon Si Thammarat province was worst hit, with 132 bodies found, many snared in piles of broken undergrowth and trees wrenched along by the floods.

The worst single disaster was at

Phipun west of the provincial capital where torrential rain loosened hillside cut bare of trees by illegal loggers and sent them sliding down on to villages.

Local officials said about 100 bodies were dug from the mud in four villages and a further 100 people were still missing there. Rescuers were searching for 94 people missing in other parts of the province.

Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan flew to the area Friday evening as provincial and national authorities appealed for donations and help.

The military was flying rice and other supplies to remote areas. The main rail line as well as most roads through the area were cut, some blocked by the debris of villages hurled about in the floodwaters.

Vast areas of rice paddies and rubber plantations were inundated. Altogether 200,000 hectares of farm land was damaged.

Although rubber industry sources said rubber trees apparently would be little affected, many rubber-smoking factories were destroyed and production would be badly hit.

NATO says it is outgunned by East

BRUSSELS (R) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) issued its estimate of East and West conventional forces in Europe Friday showing a huge Warsaw Pact superiority on land and in the air.

Officials said the report was intended to prove NATO's claim that it is outgunned on the battlefield.

It put the Warsaw Pact's main battle tanks at 51,500 compared with NATO's 16,400, combat aircraft at 8,250 to NATO's 4,000 and estimated its troop strength at more than three million compared to about 2.2 million on the Alliance side.

The report will form the basis of NATO's position at future talks with the East bloc on cutting non-nuclear forces from the Atlantic to the Urals.

NATO officials said the report was partly intended to seize the public relations initiative over arms control from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The data which we are circulating today are a demonstration of our commitment to military openness," the report said.

"Openness" is the most usual translation of the Russian term "glasnost" which has come to symbolise Gorbachev's new style of leadership.

The report, entitled "Conventional Forces in Europe: The Facts," said there had been indications that the seven-member Warsaw Pact was also ready to provide military data, and added: "We hope that following our examples they will now demonstrate this willingness in deeds rather than words."

One NATO diplomat said: "This puts the ball back in their court. They are the ones who have to produce figures now."

The 16-nation NATO says it wants to eliminate disparities in weapons systems capable of large-scale offensive action once the conventional stability talks (CST) with the Warsaw Pact get under way.

The report said the NATO strength figures were based on published information.

ANC leader demands full release of Mandela

HARARE (Agencies) — Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC), demanded Friday the full release of black South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

"What we have been waiting for is his release to his family and the whole country, so he is free to move around and meet people. We haven't got that yet," Tambo said.

"We are happy he is not going back to Pollsmoor (prison) but we still think that he is really entitled to full release, not limited release," he told journalists.

South African Justice Minister Kobbie Coetsee said Thursday that Mandela, recovering

from tuberculosis in a Cape Town clinic, would not be returned to prison but moved to other accommodation.

Mandela, 70, was jailed for life in 1964 for plotting to overthrow the government. He is still the titular leader of the ANC, the main group fighting to end white rule in South Africa.

Tambo was speaking just before he welcomed South African church leaders, including Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to talks in a hotel in Harare.

Mandela and Tambo are close friends and political colleagues who practised law together in the 1950s in Johannesburg but have not seen each

other since Tambo went into exile in the early 1960s.

Tutu roared with laughter when asked to comment on Coetsee's announcement: "We're talking about all these wonderful things that are happening... I mean, releasing a person stealthily," he said.

Tambo said he was concerned about the lack of any prospect of release for Walter Sisulu, another veteran ANC activist jailed for life with Mandela, and other prisoners. "Nothing has been said about them," he said.

Governments and anti-apartheid groups around the world have campaigned for years for the release of Mandela.

The move to a less strict form

of custody fits a theory widely held by political analysts that the government plans a phased release for Mandela to lessen the impact of his freedom in black townships where he is widely revered.

South Africa's Ambassador to the United States Piet Koornhoo gave credence to the theory in a U.S. television interview Wednesday. He said Mandela was "in the process of being given back to society."

Coetsee indicated Thursday Mandela would not be freed immediately because of "possible threats to his safety."

Officials have voiced fears that Mandela could be assassinated by left- or right-wing extremists if freed.

Mandela's wife Winnie, an anti-apartheid leader in her own right, was unimpressed by the government's move.

She attaches no significance to the statement. Mr. Mandela still remains a prisoner of the South African government and there is no indication of any imminent release," the lawyer said.

The move eases strict prison regulations which allowed Mandela only 30 visits of 40 minutes each year by not more than two people.

President P.W. Botha told visiting U.S. Evangelist Pat Robertson Thursday that Mandela would not go back to prison.

Britain enacts law on anti-violence oath

LONDON (AP) — The British government has unveiled legislation requiring political candidates in Northern Ireland to sign declarations disavowing violence.

The measure, made Thursday, one day after a man and his granddaughter were killed in a bungled Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing, was accompanied by proposals to choke off "terrorist" funding and impose a tougher prison sentencing policy.

The anti-violence oath, first proposed by the government last year, aims to undermine the IRA's legal political wing, Sinn Fein, in its drive to win political legitimacy in the British province.

At the heart of Sinn Fein ideology is its support for what it calls the IRA's "armed struggle," and which the government calls "terrorism." The party commanded about one-third of the minority Roman Catholic vote in Northern Ireland in the May 1985 election.

The proposed oath would not

stop people from running for election or preclude a particular party from participating in the electoral process, said Northern Ireland Minister Richard Needham.

"Even if they (Sinn Fein) start by signing this declaration and abide by the rules of the declaration, it at least stops the open insulting, almost obscene advocacy of violence," he told a news conference.

The law will permit the prosecution and possible ouster of councillors who publicly support the IRA's campaign to bomb and shoot the British government out of Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein has said it will find a way to get around the law.

On Wednesday night, an IRA bomb meant to blow up a police station killed a 67-year-old Roman Catholic man and his 13-year-old granddaughter and injured eight other civilians, police said.

Thousands attend Onassis funeral service

NEA SMYRNI, Greece (AP) — Several thousand mourners attended funeral services Friday for shipping heiress Christina Onassis at a cathedral her father helped build in this Athens suburb.

About 500 friends and relatives packed the St. Fotini Cathedral to hear 15 priests perform the 45-minute Greek Orthodox funeral liturgy.

Onassis' silver-bordered, brown mahogany coffin lay under the cathedral's dome as the gray bearded, golden-robed priests chanted the Byzantine sermon accompanied by an all-male choir.

Thierry Roussel, Onassis' fourth ex-husband, stood alone behind the flower-covered coffin that was flanked by Onassis' relatives and members of the Doderio family.

Roussel, who divorced Onassis after two years of marriage in 1987, would not comment on the death of his late wife after the services in response to reporters' questions.

Onassis, 37, died of a pulmonary edema last Saturday in the Buenos Aires, Argentina, home of Alberto Doderio. The shipping heiress and Marina Doderio, Alberto's wife, were long-time friends.

Greek government ministers, politicians, shipowners and businessmen stood under the cathedral's frescoed ceilings as the priests read the last rites.

More than 3,000 people standing in the rain outside the cathedral and lining nearby apartment building balconies, clapped and threw rose petals.

Onassis' only living survivor and sole inheritor, three-year-old Athena, was not present at the funeral services.

Study unveils drug that kills AIDS cells

WASHINGTON (AP) — A plant toxin combined with a special protein is able to attack and kill AIDS-infected cells in the test tube while leaving healthy cells untouched, a group of Texas researchers report.

However, they cautioned that the new laboratory development — like other incremental advances in AIDS research — was far from being ready for clinical application and, at best, might offer a potential new treatment approach rather than a cure.

Dr. Jonathan W. Uhr, chairman of the department of microbiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas, said a study to be published Friday shows a synthetic molecule called recombinant CD4 can be used in a test tube to deliver a killer toxin to cells infected with AIDS.

Uhr said the CD4 molecule naturally binds to a glycoprotein, called GP120, that forms on the

surface of cells infected with human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which causes AIDS.

In the laboratory, Uhr said his research group combined a synthetic CD4 molecule with a toxin called ricin that is extracted from plants.

When exposed in a test tube to HIV-infected cells, he said, the CD4-ricin combination binds to the cell surfaces and the ricin kills the cell, thus eliminating a source of HIV virus.

"Early in the course of HIV infection, T-cells and macrophages (two types of immunity cells) are thought to be the major cellular reservoirs for the virus. Both of those bear the CD4 molecule that permits the virus to enter," said Uhr.

By combining a toxin with the CD4 molecule, the researchers are, in effect, creating a guided missile that attacks only infected cells. Healthy cells are not touched by the toxin, said Uhr.

Indians received Bofors kickbacks, paper says

NEW DELHI (R) — Illegal commissions to secure a huge arms contract with India were paid by Sweden's Bofors company for services rendered by unnamed Indians, according to documents published by a leading Indian newspaper Friday.

Since the scandal surfaced in April last year, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has repeatedly denied that payments were made to any Indian in connection with Sweden's largest ever arms sale, a \$1.3 billion 1986 deal to supply field guns to the Indian army.

The Hindu newspaper printed on its front page a 1984 letter from Bofors marketing vice-president, Hans Ekblom, which, if genuine, shows that payments were made to a Panama-based company named Svenska Incorporated.

"For special promotion of sales of Bofors field Howitzer FH77

and its ammunition and accessories in India," Ekblom's letter says, "we shall be obliged to pay you six per cent of the ex-works value of contracts entered into by the government of India..."

The payments, it adds, are "subject to you or the Bofors' sole representative in the territory giving us satisfactory confirmation that the order is a result of your efforts."

Bofors representative in India was Win Chadha, president of a Delhi-based company called Anatron General.

Chadha fled to the United States when the scandal surfaced but returned to India last April to testify before a parliamentary enquiry.

Swedish investigators last year established that Bofors paid \$53 million into Swiss bank accounts in connection with the Indian contract, but failed to find out who were the beneficiaries.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Qian to visit Moscow Dec. 1

PEKING (AP) — Qian Qichen will travel to Moscow Dec. 1 for the first visit by a Chinese foreign minister to the Soviet Union in 31 years, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday. The two-day visit for talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, is expected to set the stage for the first Sino-Soviet summit since Nikita Khrushchev came to Peking in 1959. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Li Jinhua, speaking at a weekly briefing, said Qian's talks in Moscow would focus on Kampuchea, the main stumbling block to improved political ties between China and the Soviet Union.

Police clash with students in London

LONDON (R) — At least 40 people were arrested and two police officers injured Thursday when protesting students clashed with police near parliament in central London, police said. The clashes began when about 1,000 students broke away from a protest march and headed towards parliament along a route not approved for the demonstration. The students were protesting over plans to introduce loans to complement state study grants. Mounted police charged the demonstrators to disperse them and came under a hail of sticks and stones. Traffic in the area was reduced to chaos, as four bridges across the River Thames were closed at the height of the worst disturbances around the parliamentary buildings for many years.

Gandhi assassins' plea rejected

NEW DELHI (R) — Only a presidential pardon can now prevent the execution of two Sikhs convicted in the 1984 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, a senior Home (interior) Ministry spokesman said Thursday. He told Reuters the last legal challenge from lawyers for Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh, collapsed Thursday when India's supreme court dismissed a petition seeking a stay of execution on the grounds of mistrial. "There are no more legal hurdles left to hanging them," he said, adding that the pair's only chance lay in a mercy plea to President Ramaswamy Venkataraman. "Only that mercy petition stands between them and the gallows," he said.

Dutch arms firm investigated

AMSTERDAM (R) — Police have seized the books of the Dutch state-controlled ammunition producer Eurometaal NV to investigate whether it had exported arms illegally, a Haarlem district court official said Thursday. "We have obtained information that leads us to suspect Eurometaal has for a long time breached laws on the export of strategic goods and sold ammunition to countries at war," a spokeswoman said, adding that the documents were seized Tuesday. Alleged forgery of official export documents was also under investigation, she said. She would not specify which countries were involved, but a Dutch arms trade expert said Iran was among Eurometaal's customers. The company is owned jointly by the Dutch state and West German explosives maker Dynamit Nobel AG.

Court paroled Spanish general

MADRID (AP) — An ailing former general convicted for his role in a failed 1981 coup attempt against Spain's democratic government was paroled Thursday because of poor health, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. Former army General Luis Torres Rojas, 70, who had served half of his 12-year prison sentence for military rebellion, was among the last four revolt leaders who remained in prison, the spokesman said. He was paroled after a hospital stay. Torres Rojas received his prison sentence for his part in the Feb. 23, 1981, revolt in which a Civil Guard officer and 200 guard members supported by some army officers held the Spanish parliament and its deputies hostage overnight.



Israeli woman soldiers hold topless protest

TEL AVIV (AP) — Woman recruits at an Israeli army base lined up for morning reveille wearing only their bras and army pants to protest their commander's harsh treatment, an army spokesman said Thursday. "It was a prank by new recruits," an army spokesman said.

"They appeared at the morning line-up in irregular clothing." The army said the soldiers who showed up without shirts will be banned from the ceremonial lineup that marks the end of their basic training and will also be given extra chores at the base.

The soldiers will be punished for this, an army spokesman said. "They have given up their right to appear on the parade field for the ceremony at the end of basic training." The army said the event occurred about two weeks ago at a base in central Israel. It would not specify the location of the base, the number of troops involved or what the soldiers objected to. The soldier who organised the protest has been given a 10-day suspended sentence, the army said.

Princess Diana says she is teetotal

MANCHESTER, England (R) — Britain's Princess Diana said during a visit to an alcoholics rehabilitation centre Wednesday that she is a teetotaler. "A whiff of wine would knock me on the floor," she was quoted as saying by a 24-year-old waiter seeking help at the centre in this northern city. "I explained how I had regained my self-respect and as a result, I respected others," Stephen McNally said. "Then she told me she was a teetotaler."

But Princess Diana, whose husband Prince Charles is heir to the throne, does have to follow protocol and sip champagne at dinners where the traditional toast to Queen Elizabeth is made.

"Winnie the Pooh" forest sells for \$2.2m

LONDON (R) — Ashdown Forest, setting for novelist A.A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh" children's classics, has sold for £1.2 million (\$2.2 million), the sale agents said Thursday. The 6,000 acres of heath and woodland south of London, where characters Winnie the Pooh, Tigger and Christopher Robin, owl and eeyore, were bought by East Sussex County Council, which said people would still be allowed access to it. The 13th century forest, largest open space in southeastern England, was put on the market last year by the estate of the 10th Earl de la Warr. Conservationists last year saved the forest from attempts by energy multinational British Petroleum to gain permission to drill for oil in the forest.

American speaks with Soviet cosmonaut

SANTA ANA (AP) — A ham radio operator who for years has escaped the confines of a wheelchair and one-room trailer home by taking electronic journeys has winged into a Soviet space station on his call letters. Gordon Gunels, 37, a former firefighter who has lost most of his sight and muscle coordination to multiple sclerosis, spoke over his radio Nov. 17 with one of the Soviet cosmonauts in the space station Mir. The cosmonaut was Vladimir Titov, the station's commander, who goes by the amateur radio operator's call number UIMIR. Titov and Musa Manarov July 12 set the record for space endurance after orbiting since Dec. 21. "His English was better than mine," Gunels said of Titov. "He asked me where I lived and told me I was sounding very strong. It was so clear it was like he was hovering right over my trailer." Then they had a "good chuckle" over Gunels' call sign, K6dBun, "I told him it fit me perfectly because I'm in a wheelchair and always sitting on my buns (rear). And that was about it for the conversation," Gunels said.

Pink Floyd sends new album into space

LONDON (R) — British rock group Pink Floyd, whose "Dark Side of the Moon" album is among the best selling records of all time, is sending its latest disc into space. Cosmonauts on the Soviet-French Soyuz-7 flight due to take off Saturday are taking the album "The Delicate Sound of Thunder" to play as they head for the orbiting space station Mir, Pink Floyd's record company said.